

GAME PREVIEW

**Idaho Vandals**

5 QUESTIONS

**Anthony West**

2011-12 SCHEDULES

**Big 10 Welcome**

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO

NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

# HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

## RUNNING THE SHOW

**Taylor Martinez** stole the spotlight  
in his historic Husker debut.



SEPTEMBER 11, 2010  
VOLUME 30 | NO. 8 | \$3.95



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EDITOR,  
GENERAL MANAGER  
Aaron Babcock

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR  
Mike Babcock

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
Mike Babcock, Terry Douglass, John  
Talman, Sean Callahan, Curt McKeever,  
Steve Sipple, Brian Rosenthal, Randy York,  
Sean Stevens, Bob Hamar

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS  
Scott Bruhn, NU Sports Information,  
Aaron Babcock, Randy Hampton  
and Rivals.com

SPORTS MARKETING  
& ADVERTISING DIRECTOR  
Tim Francis (800) 524-9527, ext. 111

SALES STAFF  
Tim Francis, Aaron Babcock, Jeff Tuder,  
Chris Schmidt, Kellen Petersen

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Husker fans celebrate after Nebraska's first touchdown.



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## NEXT ISSUE

Volume 30, Issue 9, the Idaho recap and Washington preview, will be mailed Monday, Sept. 13. Check for updates at [huskersillustrated.com](http://huskersillustrated.com).



## HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

### ON THE COVER

The mystery is over. After weeks of speculation, Bo Pelini finally revealed his starting quarterback. It was a historic start, because redshirted freshman Taylor Martinez became the first freshman to start a season opener for Nebraska. He didn't disappoint, rushing for three touchdowns and 127 yards on seven carries. He also completed 9-of-15 passes for 136 yards, with no interceptions.

Photo by Scott Bruhn



## HUSKERS GET WHAT THEY WANT

Season opener answers questions, shows plenty of flaws



**SATURDAY'S GAME** was exactly what the Huskers needed – a decisive win on the scoreboard, some specific areas of success and a ton of mistakes.

How is that what the Huskers needed?

As a coach you want your team to experience success early in the season to build confidence - you just don't want too much confidence. Although I don't believe a team can ever get complacent under head coach Bo Pelini.

On the scoreboard and to the country it will look like a lopsided win, however it was a sloppy mess, which is to be expected for game one. The defense was poor, which can be attributed to facing an offense it had little information on and juggling its rotation after a number of injuries this fall.

As Pelini said, this team is not a finished product. But let's just say he was more than disgusted with his team's defensive performance, which allowed 289 yards to a team that has lost 21 straight games.

Senior defensive back Dejon Gomes agreed with Pelini's assessment.

"Yeah there was a lot of play that we need to improve on," Gomes said. "Alignments, assignments and just some simple stuff that I think he is

mainly talking about. We need to go into practice this week and fix it for the next week."

On the bright side, Nebraska couldn't have asked for a better performance at the quarterback position. How many fans would have expected Nebraska's strength in its opener would be its quarterback play? Martinez showed some flashes of greatness, leaving little doubt he would be the starter in week two.

A poor outing by Martinez, would have continued the QB questions and likely forced a change in week two. At the least, Nebraska appears to have depth at this position for the first time in several years.

The one thing you don't want to see is injuries and Nebraska appeared to suffer at least one to sophomore defensive end Cameron Meredith. His status was unknown at press time.

Overall, Nebraska has plenty of work to do this week. Idaho won a bowl game in 2009 and opened the season with a 45-0 victory over North Dakota. They will definitely provide a tougher challenge and a final warmup to a showdown against the Washington Huskies. **N**

*Send me your comments or story ideas to [aaron@huskersillustrated.com](mailto:aaron@huskersillustrated.com).*







THESE GATES PASS THE GREATEST FANS IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL

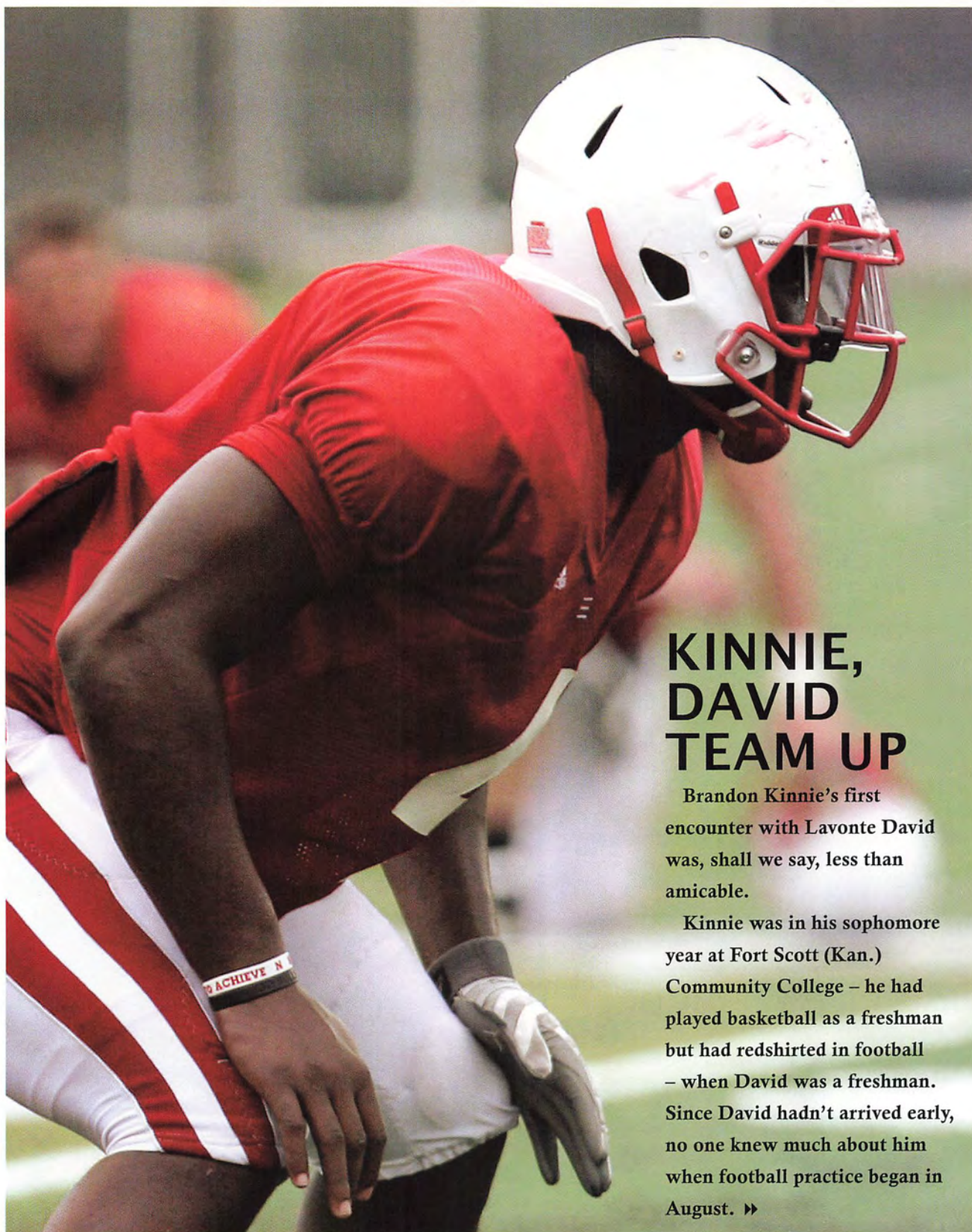
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## KINNIE, DAVID TEAM UP

Brandon Kinnie's first encounter with Lavonte David was, shall we say, less than amicable.

Kinnie was in his sophomore year at Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College – he had played basketball as a freshman but had redshirted in football – when David was a freshman. Since David hadn't arrived early, no one knew much about him when football practice began in August. ►►

SCOTT BRUHN



David was a safety at the time, and Kinnie was a wide receiver, who had made a name for himself in basketball. The two were matched in a one-on-one drill. Kinnie ran a slant route, and David popped him good. "He just bangs me like all the way into the trash cans," said Kinnie.

"I got mad because I'm supposed to be like 'the guy.' I'm just like really upset."

For the next couple of weeks the two went at it. Teammates remarked about how good David was. Kinnie, however, wouldn't acknowledge it because of what happened in the one-on-one drill.

Finally, the freeze thawed, and they became good friends.

## "HE'S JUST FAST...HE'S JUST GOT A KNACK FOR THE FOOTBALL, JUST A KNACK FOR MAKING PLAYS.."

— BRANDON KINNIE ON LAVONTE DAVID —

Looking back, "I respect that a lot," Kinnie said, "because he didn't slow down just because, 'Aw, that's BK,' like, 'I don't care; I'm trying to make my name, too.' He didn't care at all."

David subsequently moved from safety to linebacker, where he has Kinnie's endorsement. "Everybody asks me, 'What type of player is he?' I can't explain. Wherever the ball is, you're going to see him," said Kinnie. "It's not something I can pinpoint (in) his game, not like he's a hard-hitter.

"He's just fast . . . he's just got a knack for the football, just a knack for making plays."

The Lost Lettermen's List of Top 10 Impact Junior College Transfers included David at No. 7, with Fort Scott and now Cornhusker teammate Jermarcus Hardrick at No. 9. First on the list was Auburn quarterback Cam Newton, a transfer from Blinn (Texas) College.

Fort Scott lost to Blinn in the 2009 NJCAA national championship game.

David was named the game's defensive MVP.

### HI'S TOP5

## BEFORE-BOBBY BACKS\*



*Bobby Reynolds led the nation in scoring and rushed for 1,342 yards as a sophomore, when he finished fifth in Heisman Trophy voting. He was plagued by injuries the rest of his career. Even so, he could be considered the first great Cornhusker back in the modern era.*

- 1 SAM FRANCIS (1934-35-36)** } Triple-threat fullback finished second in voting for Heisman Trophy in 1936, passing as well as power, Olympic shot putter.
- 2 GEORGE SAUER (1931-32-33)** } Consensus All-America fullback, multi-sport letterman, teams never lost a conference game.
- 3 LLOYD CARDWELL (1934-35-36)** } Size and speed, nicknamed the "Wild Hoss," teammate of Sam Francis.
- 4 JOHNNY BENDER (1900-01-02-03-04)** } The "Sutton Comet" was fast like his nickname, and don't forget, earned five letters.
- 5 GLENN PRESNELL (1925-26-27)** } Earned All-America honors from Lawrence Perry of Consolidated Press Association, better than Red Grange according to Perry.

*[\*Guy Chamberlin was technically an end and so isn't included, though he ran and passed with the best.]*



# SUCH GOOD FRIENDS



When **NILES PAUL** first met **PRINCE AMUKAMARA** he probably would have guessed the two of them would be playing on the same side of the ball. Paul is a wide receiver, of course, while Amukamara is among the best collegiate cornerbacks in the country.

Initially, however, "I said he was too goofy to be a cornerback," said Paul. "I thought he looked like a running back or something. But you see it kind of panned out for him real nice."

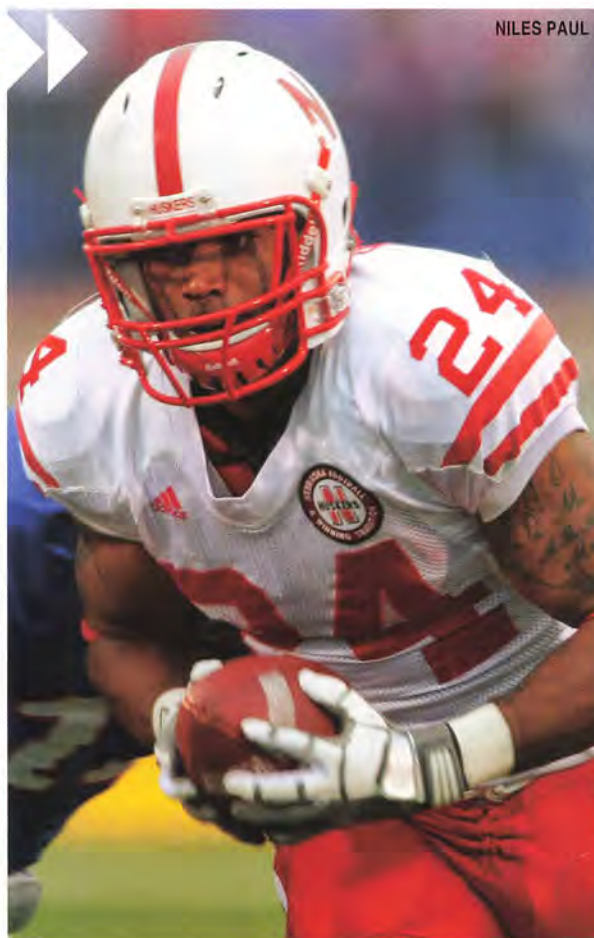
The seniors are practice competitors with each other as well as friends.

"Niles is definitely a good

player. I love going up against him," Amukamara said. Their competition raises them both "to another level. I think, for sure, it definitely helps both of us."

Amukamara was an outstanding running back in high school. As a senior, he rushed for 2,106 yards and 24 touchdowns. Their first encounter, "Prince came up to me and was like, 'Hey, bro, I'm Prince.' I kind of thought he was, like, square, pretty much," Paul said.

"I got to know Prince and I ended up loving him. You've got to love Prince."



NILES PAUL

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

CAMERON MEREDITH

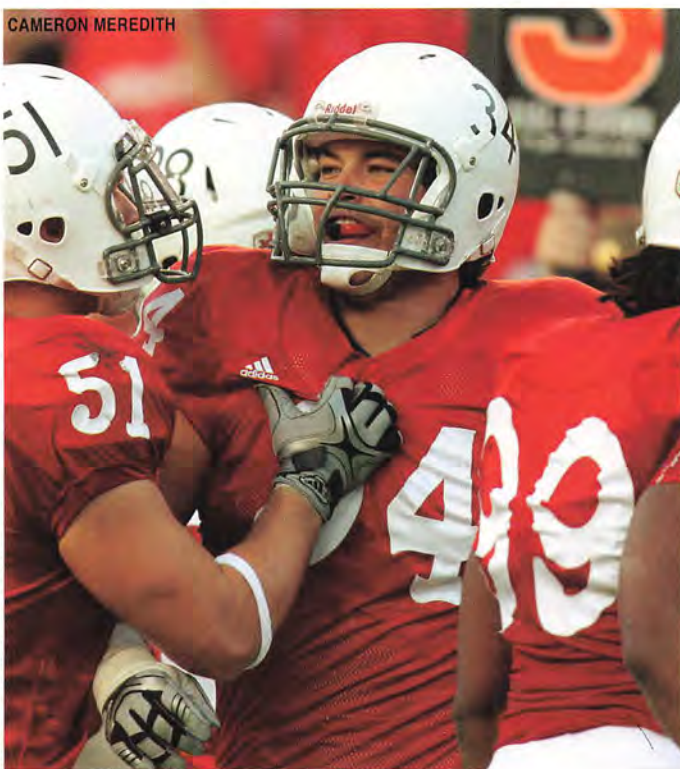


PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

## MATTER OF TRUST

How important is a player's trusting his coaches? Ask **CAMERON MEREDITH**. "It's the most important thing in the world," the sophomore defensive end said. "If you don't trust what your coach is telling you to do, there's no integrity to the defense. And it goes along with trusting the guy next to you and what he's going to do and everyone being on the same page. So it goes from the coaches to the players to the guys on the sideline. Everyone's got to know what they're doing."

A player watching from the sideline needs to be involved, too, so he can offer constructive criticism to those at his position, "say, 'Hey, man, you messed up on this,'" said Meredith.

With trust, "he doesn't have to tell me what to do. He's just telling me that I can improve on this, I messed up on this play and I know what to do the next time it happens."



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## LIGHTER & FASTER

In his new role as a wide receiver, or adjuster, senior **MIKE MCNEILL** is playing at a lighter weight than when he was a tight end, though he had trouble keeping his weight up as the season wore on. He began his sophomore and junior seasons at about 245 pounds. Now, he's about 230.

As a result, "I feel a little bit quicker . . . a little faster," he said at the start of fall camp.

In fact, he dropped his 40-yard dash time to 4.4 seconds, he said with a smile. OK, how about 4.7?

"If I were to play at 233 or 228 or 230, I don't know that I'd feel a big difference," said McNeill. "But I feel like when I weighed 245 pounds, it's a little bit different."



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

MIKE MCNEILL

He expects to be used in much the same way that Missouri used **CHASE COFFMAN**, except that "he didn't really block probably nearly as much as I will," McNeill said. "But yeah, as far as being lined up at tight end or in the slot or out at receiver, I feel like I might be kind of similar to what he did."

## ON SCHOLARSHIP NOW

Junior **AUSTIN CASSIDY**, who walked on out of Lincoln Southwest High School, was awarded a scholarship when fall-semester classes began. "Austin's done a great job. He's come a long way," **BO PELINI** said. "He helps our football team in a lot of ways."

Cassidy, a safety, excelled on special teams last season, as well as backing up in the secondary, including **ERIC HAGG**, in his role as the hybrid "peso" back.

"I can't say enough about Austin," said Pelini. "There's a number of other deserving walk-ons. We only had one slot (open). It just goes to show hard work pays off. It's a credit to him."

"I wish I could reward more of these guys. We've done everything we possibly can for the walk-ons. Hopefully, we can reward some other guys down the line."

## SIDELINES



### PASS ON THE WILDCAT

If the Huskers use an I-back to take snaps in the Wildcat alignment, it's more likely to be **REX BURKHEAD**, who has some quarterback experience in high school on his resume, rather than Roy Helu, Jr. "I can't throw well," Helu said. "I probably throw better left-handed, so I know where my role is in that."

If that's true, however, Helu would have the element of surprise on his side.

### IT'S ACADEMIC

The Nebraska football program continues to pride itself on the academic accomplishments of its players. Of the 23 on the roster listed as seniors this season, six are actually graduate students: quarterback **ZAC LEE**, tight end **MIKE MCNEILL**, offensive linemen **D.J. JONES** and **MIKE SMITH**, defensive back **ANTHONY WEST** and defensive end **TYRONE FAHIE**, who completed his undergraduate degree in 3 1/2 years.

Smith, of course, has been lost for the season with a broken leg. He could petition for a hardship and an additional season of eligibility.

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## 2010 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sat, Sept. 4	Western Kentucky	Memorial Stadium	6:00 pm
Sat, Sept. 11	Idaho	Memorial Stadium	11:30 am
Sat, Sept. 18	at Washington	Husky Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Sept. 25	South Dakota State	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Thur, Oct. 7	at Kansas State	Snyder Stadium	6:30 pm
Sat, Oct. 16	Texas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 23	at Oklahoma State	Pickens Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 30	Missouri	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 6	at Iowa State	Trice Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 13	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 20	at Texas A&M	Kyle Field	TBA
Fri, Nov. 26	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	2:30 pm



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**IT'S NICE, BUT . . .**

That Nebraska went into the season ranked in the Top 10 in both major polls was "great," said senior offensive guard **KEITH WILLIAMS**. "But we've got to stay there. We've got to compete every day to be that Top 10 team. I mean, we haven't earned it yet. We have to keep going up not down."

To be part of teams that helped bring the program back to national prominence is nice, "kind of getting that respect Nebraska needs," Williams said.

Again, the key is staying there.

**HE'S GONE**

**MATT HOLT**, a walk-on linebacker from Lee's Summit, Mo., who would have been a junior this season, is no longer with the team because of medical reasons.

Holt played in nine games as a true freshman, on the kickoff team and then at linebacker. He was credited with seven

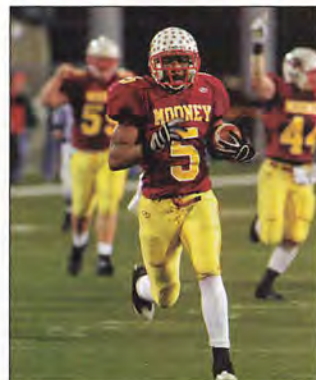
**TRAINING THEM EARLY**

Just had to send this picture of my 3 1/2 year old Grandson, Kohl Wiens. He was so engulfed by what he was looking at he didn't even know that I had gone and got my camera to take his picture. I guess Big Red does run in our families veins. We will be seated in the same seats for the 47th season this year since our graduating from UNL. We are also celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary with a tailgate party at our farm on September 18th. We love your magazine too.

Go Big Red!

**GLEN WIENS**  
Ayr, Nebraska

solo tackles in Nebraska's overtime loss at No. 7-ranked Texas Tech and appeared to have a bright future. But he missed the final three games in 2008 because of a shoulder injury and was sidelined all of last season following surgery for another shoulder injury.

**SIDELINES****NOT HERE YET**

**BRAYLON HEARD**, the prize running back in Nebraska's 2010 recruiting class from Cardinal Mooney High School in Youngstown, Ohio, did not enroll in fall classes at the university after failing to meet academic requirements. He is expected to enroll in January.

**BRONSON MARSH**, another member of the class, also will enroll in January after grayshirting. Marsh, the state's Gatorade Player of the Year, was a Super-State and All-Nebraska quarterback at Millard South High School but is projected to begin his Cornhusker career as a defensive back.



# LARRY THE CABLE GUY

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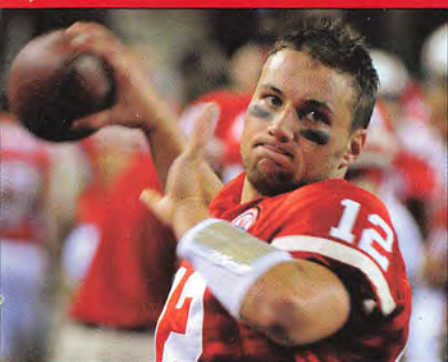
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## ///interns\\

Former Cornhusker linebacker T.J. Hollowell (2000-03) replaced Doug Colman as an intern on coach Bo Pelini's staff. Colman, also a former Husker linebacker, left Nebraska for a full-time assistant's job at Tulane, coaching — you guessed it — linebackers. Nebraska's other football interns this fall are: Joe Ganz, Jake Wesch, John Garrison, Brett Diersen and Scott Johnson.

# COLLEGIATE EXHIBITION

NFL owners reportedly are in favor of replacing two of four pre-season exhibition games in order to go from 16 regular-season games to 18. With that as context, Cornhusker coach **BO PELINI** was asked if he would be in favor of adding an exhibition game to the collegiate season. "I think that'd

always be good, (to) break up the monotony of (fall) camp," he said. "I'd welcome it."

Even the opportunity to practice against another team during fall camp would be good, according to Pelini. But "it's never going to happen," he said. The NCAA wouldn't allow it.

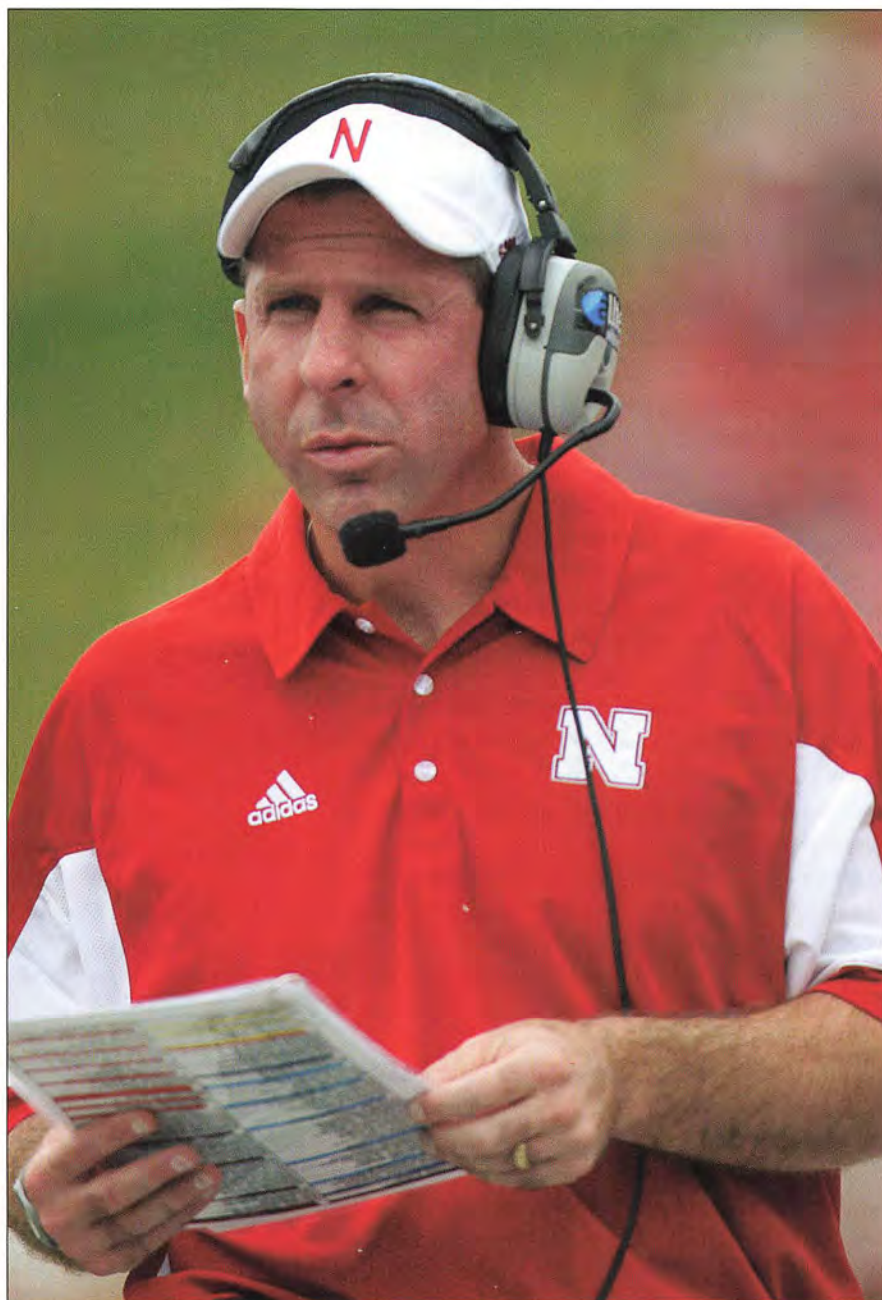


PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN





N

## Stanton



No doubt, you've heard the story about **LANGSTON "TREY" COLEMAN**, about how he hitchhiked to Nebraska from Washington, D.C., and walked on to the football team in the fall of 1963. He is often cited as the player who started the Cornhuskers' walk-on tradition, in fact.

But **BILL JOHNSON** was already at Nebraska, having walked on not once but twice.

Johnson came from Stanton and enrolled at Nebraska in the fall of 1961. He grew up with the Cornhuskers, watching an occasional game at Memorial Stadium and listening to **LYELL BREMSER** describe many others on the radio. In addition, Johnson's father had played freshman football at Nebraska before returning home for family reasons. So he was determined to realize a dream his father couldn't.

Johnson played with **BILL JENNINGS'** freshman team in 1961 then went through spring practice in 1962, under new coach Bob Devaney. He wasn't invited back that fall, however, and after considering a transfer, he set football aside and continued his studies at Nebraska.

In the spring of 1963, however, with encouragement from a young grad assistant named **TOM OSBORNE**, Johnson walked on again. Osborne was "quite influential," Johnson said recently.

The second time was the charm. He was given scholarship aid, saw action during the 1963 season and then started in 1964 and 1965 as a defensive back – the "monster."

As is the case with every walk-on who succeeds, Johnson believed in himself and his ability. "I always felt it was there," he said. "I just needed the time to prove it."

Johnson played five seasons with the AFL's Boston Patriots, as well, before a knee injury ended his career. He also "walked on with the Patriots," said Johnson, who signed as a free agent, with a recommendation from former Cornhusker defensive line coach **GEORGE KELLY**.

### STANTON, NE

County: Stanton (county seat)

Population: 1,553 (2009)

Distance from Lincoln: 129 miles

#### DID YOU KNOW?

► Herb and Rufe Dewitz were brothers. Rufe, one of only two sophomores to letter in 1922, earned all-conference recognition as a junior in 1923 and was elected captain for 1924. But he was ruled ineligible because of "previous participation in athletics" according to the student yearbook, and his Cornhusker career was finished.

► The Dewitz brothers played key roles in a 14-7 victory against Notre Dame at Memorial Stadium in 1923. Rufe passed to Dave Noble for the winning touchdown and Herb kicked both extra points against a team that included the fabled Four Horsemen.

► Stanton and Stanton County are named for Edwin McMasters Stanton, Secretary of War under Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War.

#### NU FOOTBALL LETTERMEN

Brady Caskey, OT (1992-93-94)

Herbert A. Dewitz, HB (1921-22-23)

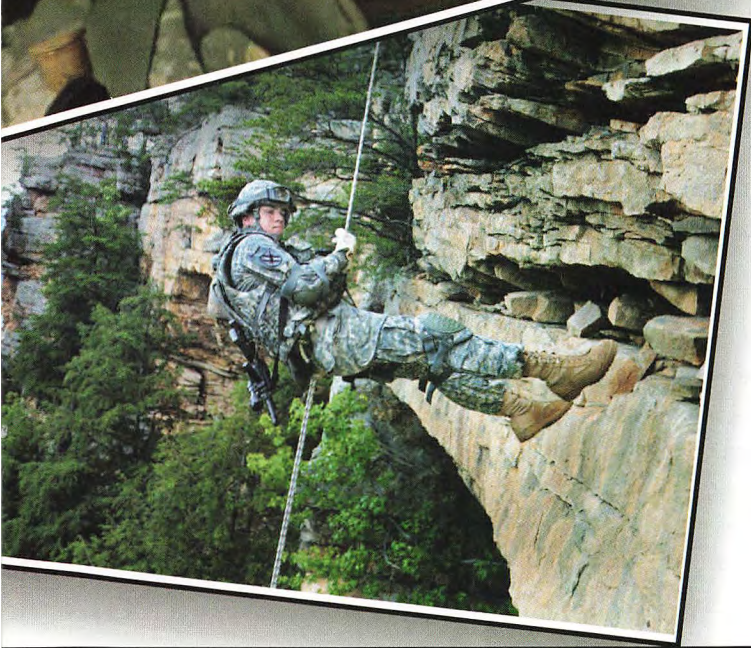
\*Rufus Dewitz, HB (1922-23)

Bill Johnson, HB (1963-64-65)

[\*First-team all-conference]

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BIG TEN SCHOOLS: CHAMPAIGN, ILL.

## Illinois Fighting Illini

*A powerhouse early in the century, Illini have just two bowl appearances since 1999* | TERRY DOUGLASS



**LIKE BIG TEN** Conference peer Minnesota, the University of Illinois football program was a major power in an era with which most contemporary college fans aren't familiar. The Fighting Illini have won five national championships and 15 Big Ten titles, but much of that success came prior to the Great Depression.

Under the direction of coach Bob Zuppke, Illinois won national crowns in 1914, 1919, 1923 and 1927. The Fighting Illini's 1951 squad, which finished 9-0-1 and routed Stanford 40-7 in the Rose Bowl, is recognized as that season's national champion by the Boand mathematical rating

system (1930-60) but finished third in the final Associated Press poll.

Since 1953, Illinois has won only four conference titles (1963, 1983, 1990 and 2001) and made just two bowl appearances since 1999, the last against USC in the 2008 Rose Bowl game. Illinois is 6-9 overall in 15 bowl appearances. The school has produced 24 consensus All-Americans. Nebraska leads Illinois 7-2-1 in their all-time series. The last meeting was in 1986 -- a 59-14 Cornhusker win at Champaign, Ill. NU has posted three shutout victories over the Fighting Illini, outscoring them by a combined 221-109.

### DON'T MISS

Illinois' Memorial Stadium is located in Champaign, Ill., a 515-mile drive from Lincoln. For those interested in flying into a major airport, Indianapolis (120 miles) and Chicago (137) are the closest options.

Memorial Stadium features a FieldTurf playing surface, and the 62,872-seat facility has been the team's home since 1927. During construction in the early 1920s, heavy rain resulted in a bulldozer sinking into the field. With the cost of removing it deemed too great, it remains under the stadium today.

Fall visitors to the Champaign-Urbana, Ill., area may want to visit Hardy's Reindeer Ranch, which includes a six-acre "cornfusion" maze. Or, check out the Olympic Tribute in Dodds Park.



### HEAD COACH

**Resume:** A noted recruiter, Ron Zook guided Illinois to the 2008 Rose Bowl (2007 season) after inheriting a program that was 4-19 in the two seasons before he took over. The former Florida head coach is 21-39 with the Illini and 44-53 overall.

### NAMES TO KNOW

**RED GRANGE:** "The Galloping Ghost" was a charter member of the college and professional football halls of fame. In his 20-game college career, Grange scored a touchdown in every contest but one -- a 14-0 loss to Nebraska in 1925.

**DICK BUTKUS:** A center and linebacker at Illinois (1962-64), Butkus was a two-time All-America selection. Inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1983, four years after his Pro Football Hall of Fame induction.

**BOB ZUPPKE:** Illinois head coach from 1913-41, compiling a 131-81-12 record with four national championships and seven Big Ten Conference titles. "The Little Dutchman" was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1951.

**GEORGE HALAS:** Played for Illinois' Big Ten Conference championship squad in 1918, but earned greater acclaim as the head coach and owner of the NFL's Chicago Bears. Elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1963.

**RAY ELIOT:** Played and coached at Illinois, also serving as an associate athletic director and an interim AD at the school. "Mr. Illini" coached from 1942-59, winning three Big Ten titles and two Rose Bowls.





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## FIVE QUESTIONS

# Anthony West

## *The Already-Graduated Senior Answers 5*

**YES, ANTHONY WEST HAS GRADUATED.** But technically, he isn't taking graduate-level courses. He's taking classes that will help prepare him for the program he wants to enter in the spring — child youth and family studies.

"But for the most part, it's simple. I only have to have 9 hours to be full-time as a grad student," West said. "Obviously, it's a lot different, a lighter schedule. I'm just taking classes to get a gist of what I want to get into."

West, a fifth-year senior, graduated

in May, earning his bachelor's degree in sociology. He said he's the first member of his family, cousins included, to receive a college degree.

"It means a lot," he said. "It's not a huge family, but it was a big accomplishment."

After football, West wants to become involved in some type of counseling, either with troubled kids or troubled families.

"I've always had an interest in probation work, but more along the lines of counseling

and stuff like that," West said.

What inspired him?

"Really, just upbringing, and a lot of the kids I knew coming up that didn't really have guidance, kind of led off the wrong path," he said.

"They didn't have anybody there to help them. They made those decisions, and there really wasn't anyone there to help them bounce

back."



1

## HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Where is the first place you'd take a first-time visitor to San Diego?

**ANTHONY WEST** The beach, of course. It's not just the beach, because there's so much you can do there. They have amusement parks on the beach in San Diego.

2

**HI** What was your favorite movie of the summer?

**WEST** I actually just saw one last week, "Takers," it was pretty good. But I actually like "Salt," with Angelina Jolie. That had to be my favorite one by far.

3

**HI** Your father played in the NFL. Does he have any fun stories he shares with you?

**WEST** He grew up in San Diego, got drafted, went out to Kansas City, and really just all the stories about his first winter out there, how he came to all the practices in sweats and hoodies and everybody was laughing at him.



4

**HI** What player on the team gives the best haircut?

**WEST** Recently, I actually just found out BK, Brandon (Kinnie), cut up Alfonso (Dennard), and it looked pretty nice.

5

**HI** What are your three favorite songs on your iPod?

**WEST** Man there's so many. It's more top artists, Drake, Jay Z, Lil Wayne. I can't really narrow it down to songs. It's more the style of music I'm into right now.







## STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

# All signs point toward improved offense

**THERE WERE HINTS** before Nebraska opened the season against a Western Kentucky club it figured to overwhelm that what you saw from the Huskers' offense in the 2009 Holiday Bowl wasn't going to be a mirage.

Offensive coordinator Shawn Watson would have his quarterback be a more fearless runner. He might throw in a change-up with Rex Burkhead taking direct snaps out of the Wildcat formation. And when Roy Helu, Jr., got healthy? Good luck to all those receivers with eyes for the ball.

Nebraska, which averaged just 147.1 yards rushing to finish ranked 62nd nationally, got a much-needed boost into the off-season by carving up what had been a stout Arizona defense for 223 rushing yards in the Holiday Bowl. That's a per-carry average of 4.6 yards, a number not lost on Watson when he and the offensive coaches started mapping out plans for 2010.

Of course, they'd need to apply these to the daily test runs against a large group of returning players from a defense that led the nation in scoring average. What better way to expose the best-laid plans? But sure enough, by the end of spring practice, which Lee missed while recovering from surgery, the offense was all systems go. By mid-August, tight ends coach Ron Brown looked like he was living out a fantasy in which he'd convinced all of his guys

that a steady dose of blocking beat the heck out of any reception.

One of Brown's pupils, sophomore Kyler Reed, offered a week before the opener, "We've been running the ball really well this camp against a good defense, so I think the run is actually going to open up the pass this year. "We're probably going to be (a) run-first team."

This thought came despite the fact that Nebraska was about to break in a new starting center (Mike Caputo) and have a first-year player at left tackle.

Though neither had taken their first live snaps, Watson raved about the skills of redshirted freshman Jeremiah Sirles and junior-college transfer Jermarcus Hardrick.

"He's good. Really good," Watson said of Sirles, a 6-foot-6, 310-pounder from Lakewood, Colo.

Even so, the 6-7, 320-pound Hardrick was still in the running for the starting spot, despite the fact he'd missed some practice time with an illness.

"He still needs to improve technically," Watson said of the Batesville, Miss., product. "But when he does things right, he's a force."

If Watson finds himself regularly describing the Huskers' offense like he did Hardrick, you can be sure the investment in the running game will be paying major dividends. Be careful, though, to make a lot of conclusions

or projections from one game against an opponent beginning its second year as a full-fledged NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision member.

That outcome isn't likely to give us a true identity of how NU will attack offensively once opponents become more capable of matching its weaponry. Perhaps the starting quarterback against Western Kentucky isn't the one handling the reins once Big 12 play begins, and maybe that causes a shift in Watson's thinking?

Old-school Husker fans might find that possibility unnerving, but if they're in need of a stomach-settler, they can look at it this way: A strong running game -- regardless of how it's accomplished -- will be pivotal to Nebraska being where it wants come the end of November.

While we're on that topic, I'm guessing many of you will have conflicting feelings concerning one analyst's bold prediction about the Huskers.

ESPN's Lee Corso, in Orlando, Fla., for a function just before the start of the season, offered that Nebraska and Florida would meet in the BCS championship.

Then again, maybe a giant Cornhead and Gator mascot were the only props at his disposal?

So much for concerns about life without Ndamukong Suh, huh? **N**





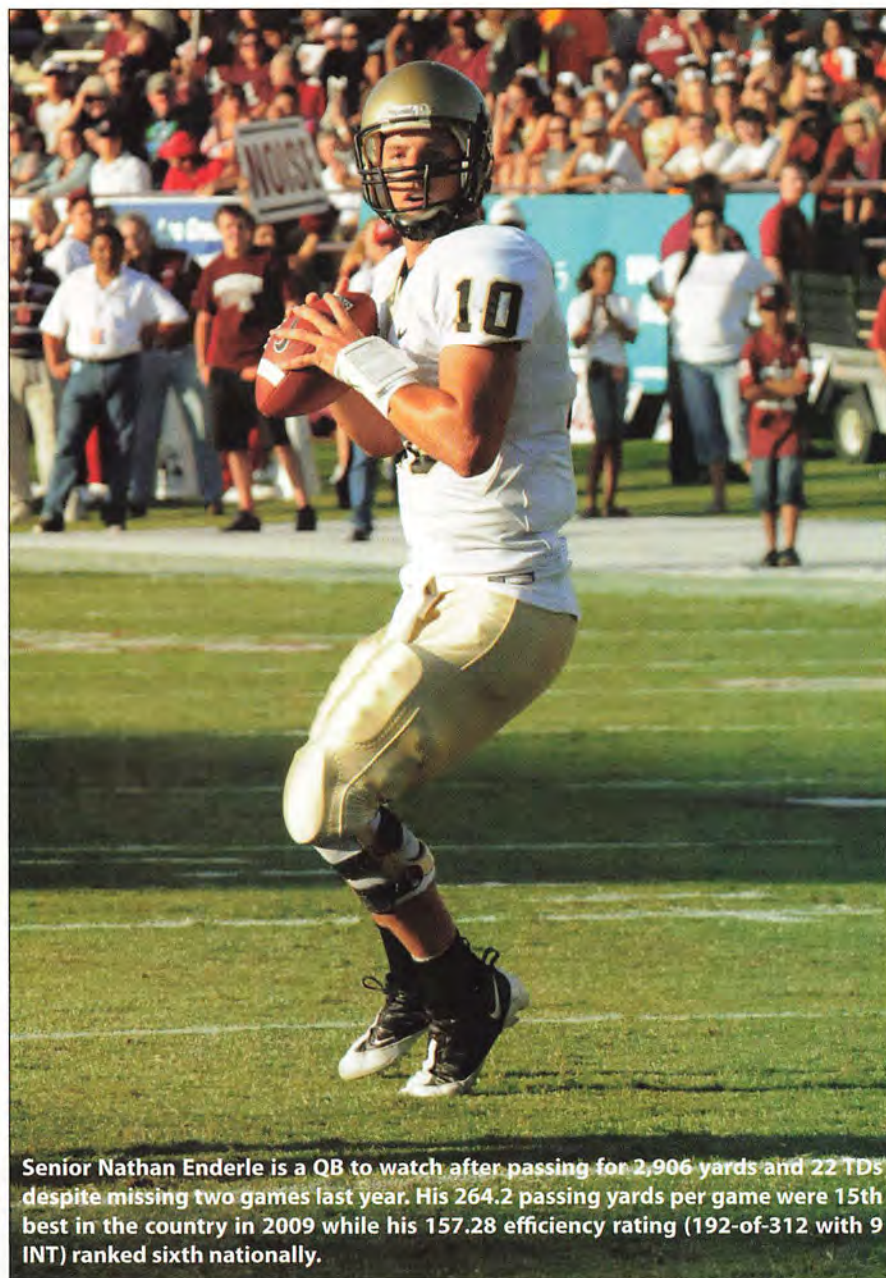
# University of Idaho

*Idaho returns from an impressive 2009 season that included a win in the Humanitarian Bowl* | JERRY TRICKIE

**IDAHO LOOKS TO** build on last year's eight-win campaign -- its first winning record in a decade -- as it returns 10 starters

on defense and eight on offense. The Vandals have experience and depth at nearly every position except offensive line where

they lost three starters, including first-round NFL draft pick and Outland Trophy finalist Mike Iupati.



Senior Nathan Enderle is a QB to watch after passing for 2,906 yards and 22 TDs despite missing two games last year. His 264.2 passing yards per game were 15th best in the country in 2009 while his 157.28 efficiency rating (192-of-312 with 9 INT) ranked sixth nationally.



## HEAD COACH

**Resume:** Rob Akey's philosophy finally took hold in 2009 as the Vandals won eight games, including taking the Humanitarian Bowl title. It was the largest turnaround in the FBS as Idaho had won just three games in the previous two years combined under Akey.

## KNOW YOUR FOE



### Shiloh Keo, Sr., S

A 2009 All-WAC first-teamer, Keo led the Vandals with 113 tackles while ranking 14th in the NCAA with 72 solo stops.



### Daniel Hardy, Sr., WR

After 39 catches for 691 yards in 2009, Hardy replaces departed WR Max Komar (63 rec., 1,052 yds., 11 TDs).

### JoJo Dickson, Sr., LB

Dickson returns after ranking



second in tackles (79 stops, 43 solo) and fourth in TFLs (4.5 for 17 yards) last year.

## 2010 SCHEDULE

- 9/2 North Dakota, 8 p.m.
- 9/11 at Nebraska, 11:30 a.m.
- 9/18 UNLV, 9:30 p.m.
- 9/25 at Colorado State, 3 p.m.
- 10/2 at Western Michigan, 1 p.m.
- 10/16 at Louisiana Tech, 3 p.m.
- 10/23 New Mexico State, 4 p.m.
- 10/30 at Hawaii, 10:30 p.m.
- 11/6 Nevada, 4 p.m.
- 11/12 Boise State, 8 p.m.
- 11/20 at Utah State, 2 p.m.
- 11/27 at Fresno State, 9 p.m.
- 12/4 San Jose State, 4 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY OF IDAHO SPORTS INFORMATION







by Terry Douglass

## TURNING POINT



PHOTOS BY AARON BABCOCK

# BIG-PLAY THREAT

**WITH NEBRASKA'S** coaching staff keeping the identity of its starting quarterback under wraps until minutes before kickoff of the season opener against Western Kentucky, the Hilltoppers didn't quite know what to expect.

Then again, even when redshirt freshman Taylor Martinez was finally announced as Nebraska's starting signal-caller Saturday night, the information probably didn't help Western Kentucky that much. The first redshirt freshman to start a season opener at quarterback for the Huskers, Martinez rushed for 127 yards and three touchdowns on just seven carries and also completed 9-of-15 pass attempts for 136 yards to spark his squad to a 49-10 victory.

"He's a pretty good athlete," Western Kentucky linebacker Thomas Majors said of Martinez. "(Nebraska) did a lot of plays that we weren't prepared for and that we didn't prepare for this week and they had a lot of success running the ball with the quarterback."

Martinez sprinted 46 yards for his first TD run on Nebraska's third play from scrimmage. The 6-foot-1, 205-pounder from Corona, Calif., added third-quarter scoring runs of 19 and 15 yards,

respectively, giving the Huskers a 35-3 lead with 17 minutes left to play.

"I scored on my first play of my high school career and right when I came here, that happened as well," Martinez said. "I was hoping for that. It felt awesome, but I think I can play a lot better."

It's safe to say Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini was pleased with Martinez's opening-night performance.

"He made some explosive plays and did some really good things," Pelini said. "I thought he managed the football team well. I thought he threw it well and was pretty efficient."

Nebraska I-back Rex Burkhead said Martinez gives the offense an added dimension.

"He's a big-play threat every time he touches the ball," Burkhead said.

But Pelini reiterated that the quarterback competition between Martinez, Cody Green and Zac Lee isn't over.

"I have said it before and I'll say it again: It's always a daily competition around here," Pelini said. "Obviously, we felt he was in the starting job. I thought he played well. I thought the other guys played well, too." **N**





SCOTT BRUHN

## DISPLEASED PELINI

**W**hen asked about Nebraska's defensive performance in Saturday's 49-10 season-opening victory over Western Kentucky, Cornhusker head coach **BO PELINI** didn't mince words.

The Hilltoppers came to Lincoln with a 20-game losing streak and while they didn't necessarily threaten to upset the No. 8-ranked Cornhuskers, Western Kentucky apparently moved the ball much too easily for Pelini's liking.

"Overall defensively, I thought it was an absolute embarrassment," Pelini said. "I thought it was coached poorly, that starts with me. I don't like anything we did defensively.

"There were a couple of things we did OK, but we did not play up to our

standard."

Western Kentucky finished with 299 yards of total offense, including 179 yards rushing. Hilltoppers' running back **BOBBY RAINEY** rushed for 155 yards on 30 carries, including a 5-yard touchdown run with 12:46 to play.

"When we give up those kinds of yards and those kinds of points, of course, he's not going to be happy," Nebraska junior defensive tackle **JARED CRICK** said of Pelini. "We're not happy with our performance. We've just got to get back to work this week and improve."

### ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

Unlike his younger brother, **CARL PELINI** offered slightly less biting

criticism of the defense's play. For starters, Nebraska's defensive coordinator said that the Huskers struggled with two new starters at linebacker in sophomore **ALONZO WHALEY** and junior junior-college transfer **LAVONTE DAVID**.

With projected starting linebackers **SEAN FISHER** (broken leg) and **WILL COMPTON** (foot) both suffering injuries in preseason practices, Pelini said his unit had to scramble to teach Whaley and David how to make the calls for the defense.

"I was a little frustrated at different points, but I kept trying to remind myself that essentially (our) 'quarterback' got hurt on Thursday," Carl Pelini said of Compton. "(Western Kentucky) was



# GameNotes



SCOTT BRUHN

## TRIAL BY FIRE: What **LAVONTE**

**DAVID** and **ALONZO WHALEY** lacked in knowledge while making their first starts for Nebraska at linebacker, they tried to make up for in effort.

David finished with a game-high 13 tackles, including five solo stops, while Whaley had five tackles, four of

them solos.

"It was tough, but I had **SEAN FISHER** and **WILL COMPTON**, guiding me through," David said. "When they went down, it really took a toll on me, but I had to just step up, go from what they taught me and learn from there."

a team that gave you tons of formations and motions and forced you to make a lot of adjustments, so when you really step back and look at a lot of the success they had, it's fixable stuff -- communication."

Add to that the fact that first-year coach **WILLIE TAGGERT** was leading the Hilltoppers. That meant Nebraska's defensive staff didn't know 100 percent what the Huskers would be facing.

## T-MAGIC'S SHOW

Even though **ZAC LEE** and **CODY GREEN** combined to start all of Nebraska's games at quarterback last season, Green said he wasn't surprised when the quarterbacks were informed that **TAYLOR MARTINEZ** would get the

starting nod against Western Kentucky.

"Basically, we were all OK with it because he's been balling out -- he's been playing," Green said of Martinez. "As you can see, he has all the speed. The kid is fast and with our run game, oh my gosh, he fits it perfectly, so we weren't surprised and we supported him 100 percent."

Martinez, dubbed "T-Magic" by his teammates, finished with 127 rushing yards and three TDs on seven carries, including a 46-yard scoring run on his first collegiate rushing attempt. The redshirt freshman is the first Nebraska quarterback to rush for more than 100 yards since **JAMMAL LORD** had 109 yards against Texas A&M in 2003.



## HELPFUL ADVICE

While understandably disappointed about being bypassed for the starting quarterback job, Nebraska's **CODY GREEN** said he and **ZAC LEE** did their best to try to help redshirt freshman **TAYLOR MARTINEZ** in his college debut for offensive coordinator **SHAWN WATSON**.

"We were Wats' eyes one the sideline, basically," Green said. "That's what Zac did for me last season and that's what I wanted to do for Taylor and Zac did, too, because it's hard going out there, starting your first game, especially in front of a home crowd of (85,000).

## GETTING OFFENSIVE

Nebraska's 536 yards of total offense against Western Kentucky were the most by the Huskers since gaining 610 total yards at Kansas State in 2008.

"We came out and ran the ball really well. You had the passing game going, too," said Nebraska I-back **REX BURKHEAD** who rushed for 57 yards and caught two passes for 47 yards. "We still have room for improvement, but we came out and executed really well, I thought, at the start."





CAMERON MEREDITH (34), BAKER STEINKUHLER (55) AND JARED CRICK (94) CELEBRATE IN THE FIRST HALF. PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

**There's no cure for Big Red fever.**





NEBRASKA



WESTERN KENTUCKY



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**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:**

1) Senior Pierre Allen knocks QB Kawaun Jakes to the turf.

*Photo by Scott Bruhn*

2) Junior Jared Crick tries to break up a pass by Jakes.

*Photo by Randy Hampton*

3) Sophomore Rex Burkhead breaks away for a touchdown.

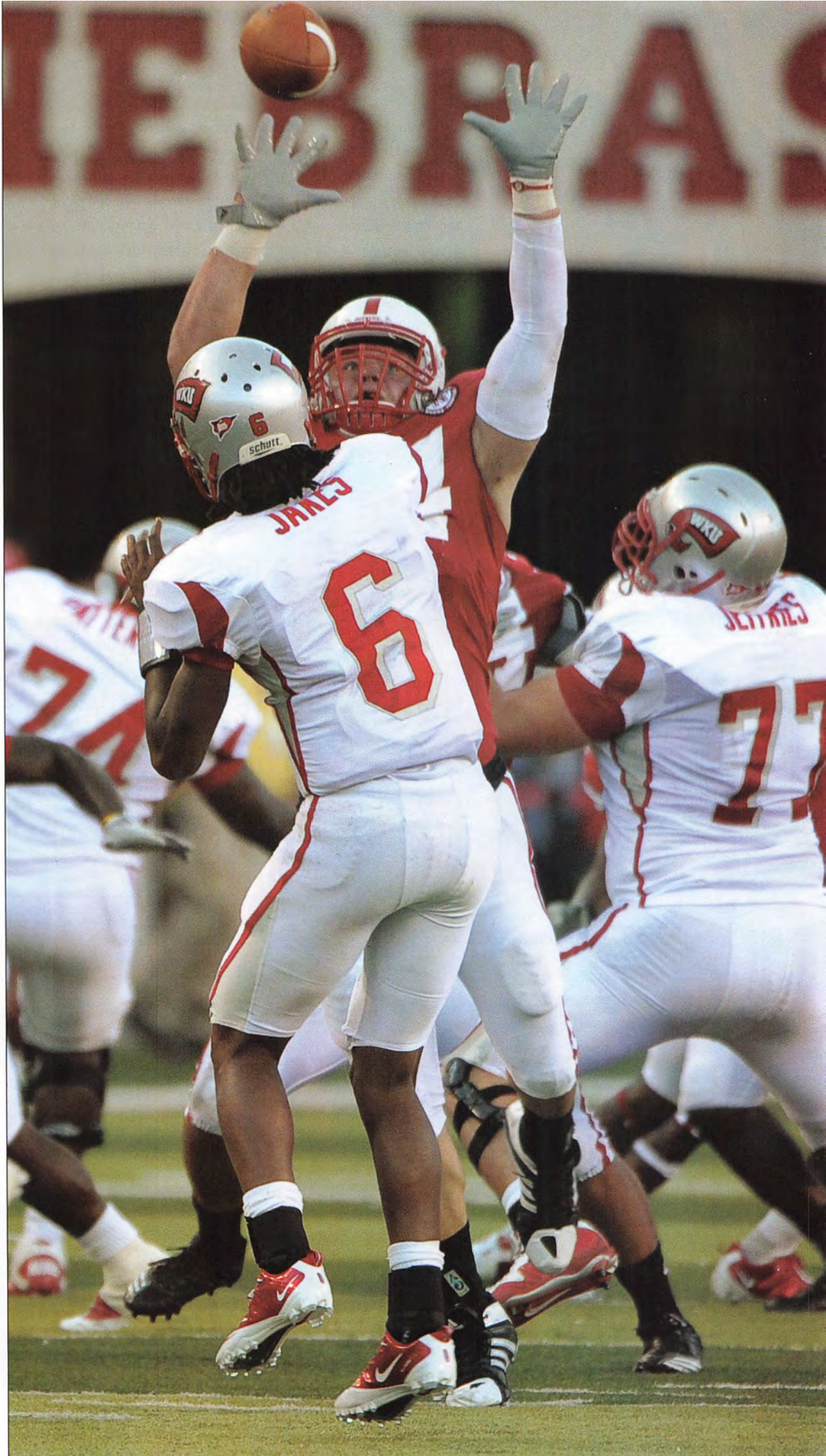
*Photo by Scott Bruhn*

4) Alonzo Whaley and Rickey Thenarse team up for a tackle.

*Photo by Scott Bruhn*











## PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### LAVONTE DAVID accepted responsibility on behalf of himself and Alonzo

Whaley for Nebraska's defensive problems against Western Kentucky.

"To be honest, most of it was our fault," he said.

The basis for the problems was communication, or rather, lack of communication.

As the starting linebackers – first-time starters, in fact – he and Whaley were responsible for making the defensive calls, Whaley in the base defense, David in the dime package.

And "sometimes we would probably just get stuck, like tunnel vision, just focusing on what our assignments were instead of making the calls," said David.

Crowd noise further complicated the situation.

The junior transfer from Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College was credited with a game-high 13 tackles. "A lot of the tackles I made I was misaligned," David said.

"If I was aligned right, I probably would have made more."

Husker Report Card

### RUSHING

Taylor Martinez stole the show as Nebraska averaged 8.8 yards per carry. Even against a suspect defense that production is impressive. Bo Pelini is looking for a physical running game, and this was 289 steps in the right direction.

A

### PASSING

The Huskers complemented the running game with efficient passing. Brandon Kinnie and Niles Paul were the favored targets. Taylor Martinez was sacked once.

B

### RUSHING DEFENSE

Not a good week to ask Bo Pelini about when Blackshirts might be distributed. Bobby Rainey rushed for 155 yards, an unacceptable total against a Pelini defense. "I don't like anything we did defensively," Pelini said.

F

### PASSING DEFENSE

Though not an excuse, Western Kentucky's West Coast offense, installed by new head coach Willie Taggart, did present problems with its multiple formations and motions.

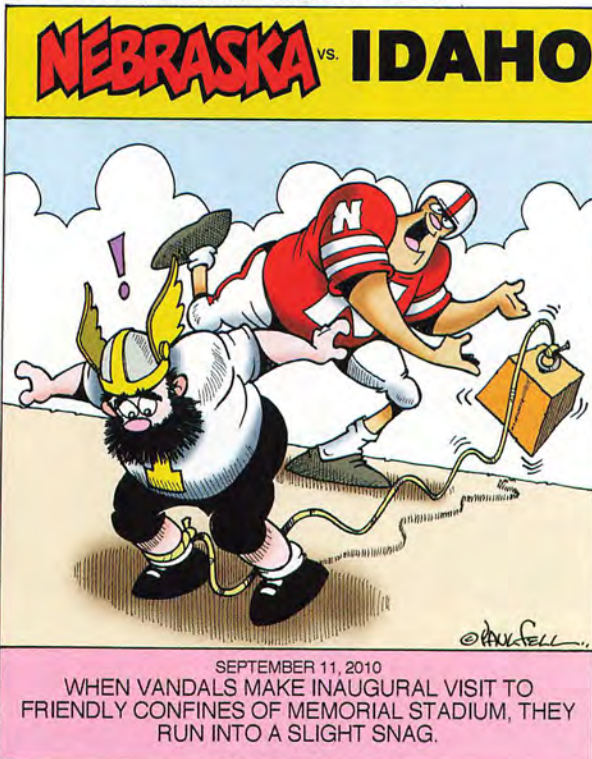
C

### KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS

Tim Marlowe had a 42-yard kickoff return and Niles Paul a 31-yard punt return. Alex Henery averaged 42.7 yards on three punts. Adi Kunalic had two touchbacks.

B

### THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION



## QUICK PICKS



**Aaron Babcock**  
(Season, Last Week)  
(5-2, 5-2)



**Mike Babcock**  
(6-1, 6-1)



**Terry Douglass**  
(7-0, 7-0)



**Kevin Kugler**  
(7-0, 7-0)



**Sean Callahan**  
(6-1, 6-1)



**Matt Davison**  
(6-1, 6-1)

Idaho at Nebraska	NU 36-17	NU 52-13	NU 45-27	NU 49-13	NU 45-17	NU 37-13
Georgia Tech at Kansas	GT 42-9	GT 27-9	GT 28-7	GT 31-13	GT 34-16	GT 31-6
Florida State at Oklahoma	OU 24-17	OU 38-20	OU 24-17	OU 34-28	OU 27-23	OU 27-21
Miami at Ohio State	OSU 28-21	OSU 28-17	OSU 20-14	OSU 38-21	OSU 34-24	OSU 24-21
Iowa State at Iowa	UI 35-21	UI 21-12	UI 37-10	UI 35-13	UI 38-20	UI 27-14
Michigan at Notre Dame	ND 21-20	ND 31-14	UM 24-21	UM 24-21	UM 40-45	UM 24-21
Penn State at Alabama	UA 35-17	UA 28-21	UA 31-14	UA 31-14	UA 27-13	UA 31-17
Georgia at South Carolina	USC 24-10	UGA 31-28	USC 17-13	USC 24-17	UGA 24-20	USC 21-18



# GameStats

## SUMMARY

### SCORING

Sept. 4, 2010

Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.

Attendance: 85,555

	1	2	3	4	F
WESTERN KY	0	0	3	7	10
NEBRASKA	14	7	14	14	49

#### First Quarter

NU	Wk	NU
Martinez, Taylor 46-yard run (Henery, Alex kick) 11:23 Drive: 3 plays 55 yds 1:17	0	7

#### Second Quarter

NU	Wk	NU
Burkhead, Rex 20-yard run (Henery kick) 06:11 Drive: 3 plays 52 yds 1:12	0	14

#### Third Quarter

NU	Wk	NU
Helu Jr., Roy 3-yard run (Henery Kick) 05:49 Drive: 7 plays 34 yds 3:47	0	21

#### Fourth Quarter

NU	Wk	NU
Martinez 19-yard run (Henery kick) 12:54 Drive: 4 plays 68 yds 1:59	0	28

WKU	Wk	NU
Tinius, Casey 25-yard field goal 08:20 Drive: 11 plays 67 yds 4:27	3	38

NU	Wk	NU
Martinez 15-yard run (Henery kick) 2:01 Drive: 6 plays 80 yds 2:18	3	35

WKU	Wk	NU
Rainey, Bobby 5-yard run (Tinius, Casey kick) 12:46 Drive: 9 plays 80 yards 4:15	10	35

NU	Wk	NU
Paul, Niles 33-yard pass from Green, Cody (Henery kick) 9:45 Drive: 7 plays 86 yards 2:56	10	42

NU	Wk	NU
Jones, Austin 5-yard run (Henery kick) Drive: 2 plays 13 yards 0:49	10	49

## TEAM STATS

#### Total First Downs

	WK	NU
Rushing	14	23
Passing	5	12
Penalty	6	11
	3	0

#### Rushing Attempts

189	298
-----	-----

#### Yards Gained Rushing

10	9
----	---

#### Net Yards Rushing

179	289
-----	-----

#### Net Yards Passing

120	247
-----	-----

#### Passes Attempted

22	25
----	----

#### Passes Completed

12	17
----	----

#### Had Intercepted

1	0
---	---

#### Percent Completion

52.2%	68.0%
-------	-------

#### Yards per Attempt

5.5	9.9
-----	-----

#### Yards per Completion

10.0	14.5
------	------

#### Total Offensive Plays

62	58
----	----

#### Total Net Yards

299	536
-----	-----

#### Avg. Gain Per Play

4.8	9.2
-----	-----

#### Fumbles: No-Lost

1-1	2-2
-----	-----

#### Penalties: No-Yards

7-51	6-75
------	------

#### Punts: No-Yards

8-297	3-128
-------	-------

#### Avg. Per Punt

37.1	42.7
------	------

#### Avg. Net Punt

27.4	39.3
------	------

#### Punt Returns: No-Yards

2-10	3-58
------	------

#### Kickoff Returns: No-Yards

6-132	3-83
-------	------

#### Interception Returns: No-Yards

0-0	1-29
-----	------

#### Fumble Returns: No-Yards

0-0	0-0
-----	-----

#### Miscellaneous Yards

0	0
---	---

#### Possession Time

33:20	26:40
-------	-------

#### Third-Down Conversions

4-15	5-9
------	-----

#### Percentage

26.7%	55.6%
-------	-------

#### Fourth-Down Conversions

0-0	0-0
-----	-----

#### Percentage

0.0%	0.0%
------	------

#### Sacks By: No-Yards

1-2	1-8
-----	-----

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

### NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
Martinez	7	129	2	127	18.1	3	46
Burkhead	5	57	0	57	11.4	1	24
Helu Jr.	5	29	0	29	5.8	1	11
Lee	3	21	0	21	7.0	0	7
Green	3	17	0	17	5.7	0	7
Jones	2	13	0	13	6.5	1	8
Marlowe	1	13	0	13	13.0	0	13
Paul	1	8	0	8	8.0	0	8
Ward	1	8	0	8	8.0	0	8
Okafor	1	2	0	2	2.0	0	2
Robinson	4	7	7	0	0	4	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>289</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>46</b>

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
Martinez	15	9	60.0	0	136	0	28
Green	6	5	83.3	1	66	1	33
Lee	4	3	75.0	0	45	0	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Kinnie	6	59	0	14
Paul	5	92	1	33
Burkhead	2	47	0	28
Henry	1	24	0	24
Hill	1	11	0	11
Enunwa	1	10	0	10
Reed	1	4	0	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Paul	3	58	0	31
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Marlowe	2	69	0	42
Kinnie	1	14	0	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	TB	FC	50+	IN20
Henery	3	42.7	52	0	-	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

DEFENSE	UT	AT	TT	TFL	SAC	PD	FF	FR
David	5	8	13	-	-	-	-	-
Gomes	4	2	6	-	-	-	1	-
Crick	3	3	6	-	-	-	-	-
Dennard	3	3	6	-	-	-	-	-
Whaley	4	1	5	-	-	-	-	-
Allen	0	5	5	-	-	-	-	-
Smith	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-
Thenarse	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-
Meredith	2	2	4	1-2	-	-	-	-
Martin	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
Amukamara	1	2	3	-	-	1	-	-
Stoddard	0	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
Hagg	0	3	3	-	-	-	-	1-0
May	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Williams	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Steinkuhler	1	0	1	1-8	1-0-8	-	-	-
Martin	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-

INTERCEPT. RET.	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Smith	1	29	0	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>

### WESTERN KENTUCKY

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
Rainey	30	155	0	155	5.2	1	46
McNeal	4	19	0	19	4.8	0	7
Johnson	1	7	0	7	7.0	0	7
Jakes	4	8	8	0	0.0	0	4
TEAM	1	0	2	-2	-2.0	0	-2.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>46</b>

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
Jakes	22	12	54.5	1	120	0	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Rainey	3	36	0	24
Doyle	2	24	0	18
Vasquez	2	23	0	12
Jones	1	17	0	6
Johnson	1	12	0	12
McNeal	1	8	0	8
Cooper	1	2	0	2
Jeffries	1	-2	0	-2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
McNeal	2	10	0	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
McNeal	6	132	0	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	TB	FC	50+	IN20
Brakefield	8	37.1	50	1	-	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

FIELD GOALS	MADE	ATT	LG	BLKD
Tinius	1	1	25	-

DEFENSE	UT	AT	TT	TFL	SAC	PD	FF	FR
Forrest	6	1	7	-	-	-	-	-
Majors	5	2	7	1-4	-	-	1	-
Brooks	6	0	6	-	-	1	-	-
Misaalefua	1	5	6	-	-	-	-	-
Peterson	5	0	5	-	-	-	-	-
Beard	2	3	5	-	-	-	-	-
Santoro	1	4	5	-	-	-	-	1-0
Bullard	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-
Cooper	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-
Clendenin	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-
Bailey	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-
Hervey	1	0	1	1-3	-	-	-	-
Jeffries	1	0	1	-	-	-	1	-
Smith	1	0	1	1-2	1-0-2	-	-	-
Boyd	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-
Martin	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wright	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Patterson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

INTERCEPT. RET.	NO	YDS	TD	LG
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>





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**CATCHING UP WITH**

# Monte Johnson

**NEVER A STARTER AT NU, HE FLOURISHED AS A RAIDER**

**ALL NEBRASKA FOOTBALL** stories are relevant, but this one is in a league of its own.

It's about a player from Bloomington, Minn., who turned down scholarship offers from Minnesota, Notre Dame, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin to play for Bob Devaney in 1969 – a player who never once started a game at Nebraska, yet went on to start six years for the Oakland Raiders, including one Super Bowl championship team.

Meet Monte Johnson, a successful 58-year-old Atlanta businessman who made the number 58 so famous in Oakland that he was recently named the middle linebacker on a popular publication's All-Time Oakland Raiders' Defense.

Johnson can't help but wonder how Monte Kiffin, his defensive coordinator at Nebraska, might view such an accolade.

When the Raiders drafted Johnson in the second round, "it was a shock to everybody, but probably most of all to Coach Kiffin," Johnson said. "He used to tell me: 'Monte, everybody has skeletons in their closet, and you're my skeleton because you're out walking

around where everyone can see you.'"

A 6-foot-5, 245-pound defensive end with 4.7 speed in the 40, Johnson lettered on Nebraska's national championship teams in 1970 and '71 before deciding that he'd had enough backing up Outland Trophy winner Larry Jacobson as a sophomore and Bill Janssen as a junior.

"I thought seriously about leaving the program," Johnson said, admitting that he had, in fact, made up his mind to leave before Jim Walden, then a Nebraska assistant, talked him out of it.

Fortunately, he returned as a more mature and more determined senior and ended up leading the Huskers that season in tackles on a team that punched out Notre Dame, 40-6, in the Orange Bowl.

Whatever ignominy Johnson might have felt for spending three consecutive seasons without starting was replaced by his desire to play on every special team Nebraska had. Once he finally realized that he was infinitely better on Saturdays

than he was in daily practices, he used his back-up role as a source of inspiration – for himself and others.

Johnson converted his personal disappointment into dramatic growth and saw the doors open to his greatest opportunities. Days after Devaney's last official game as a head coach in the 1973 Orange Bowl, he brought the career non-starter with him to the All-America Bowl in Tampa, Fla.

In a pivotal practice for that game, Johnson was asked to "pretend" to be a linebacker in an "arm-shield" offensive drill. Ron Wolf, the chief architect of Oakland's best Super Bowl teams, watched Johnson show his ability to read, react and move while Al Davis, the Raiders' head coach, was standing next to Wolf.

**MEET MONTE JOHNSON, A SUCCESSFUL 58-YEAR-OLD ATLANTA BUSINESSMAN WHO MADE THE NUMBER 58 SO FAMOUS IN OAKLAND THAT HE WAS RECENTLY NAMED THE MIDDLE LINEBACKER ON A POPULAR PUBLICATION'S ALL-TIME OAKLAND RAIDERS' DEFENSE.**

The Raiders' brass saw a diamond in the rough, drafted him, and Johnson went quickly to the top of the NFL, becoming – in the process – one of Nebraska's most surprising success stories ever.

*by Randy York*



# IN THE Red Zone

## A BIG TEN WELCOME

### WELCOME, NEBRASKA.

Establishing a physical running game has been a point of offensive emphasis for coach Bo Pelini. That emphasis will have figurative as well as literal meaning when the Cornhuskers join the Big Ten for the 2011 football season. They'll certainly have to hit the ground running.

In addition to announcing divisional alignments for football, three days before Nebraska's opener against Western Kentucky, the Big Ten released conference schedules for 2011 and 2012.

Nebraska Athletic Director Tom Osborne's reaction to the 2011 conference schedule underscored the challenge the Huskers will face in their first season in the Big Ten.

"I thought, 'Whoa, what are we doing here?'" he said on the Big Ten Network.

Nebraska will open Big Ten play at Wisconsin followed by an Ohio State visit to Memorial Stadium, and it will finish with back-to-back road games against Penn State, its designated cross-division rival, and Michigan followed by a home game against Iowa, which is in the same division with Nebraska and Michigan, along with Michigan State, Minnesota and Northwestern.

The other guaranteed cross-division rivalries will be: Illinois-Northwestern, Indiana-Michigan State, Purdue-Iowa, Wisconsin-Minnesota and, of course, Michigan-Ohio State.

Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany was asked if Nebraska's

### WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

#### Athletic Director Tom Osborne:



"We received the Big Ten football division alignments as well as the schedules for the 2011 and 2012 seasons. The scheduling process was difficult because the Big Ten is attempting to preserve a large number of rivalry games and have as many of those games as possible fall at approximately the same point in the season as they have in the past.

"The schedule will be challenging, but also interesting for our players, coaches and fans. Nebraska is not a voting member at this time so we were not able to vote on the schedule, but I was allowed to provide input. We look forward to being in the Big Ten, but at this point need to turn our attention fully to the task at hand this season. We hope to finish with a good year in the Big 12 Conference."

#### Head Coach Bo Pelini:



"I know the Big Ten Conference has made a great effort to create divisions that are competitive and fair, while protecting rivalries, and I am confident they have done that. I know it is exciting for our fans to think about, but that is a year away. Our focus is completely on the task at hand, which is Western Kentucky on Saturday night."

initial schedule might be evidence of "rookie hazing." "Not at all," he said during a post-announcement teleconference.

Putting together a schedule to accommodate the addition of the Huskers a year from now "was not an easy logistical task," said Delany. "We welcome them in."

The driving principle was competitive "fairness," followed by the preservation of rivalries.

The logistics involved computers, algorithms, Sagarin and BCS ratings, and well . . . it was tough, put it that way. Nebraska was included in a top tier, along with Ohio State, Michigan and Penn State, with Iowa and Wisconsin in a second tier and the remaining schools in a third tier.

Every school "gave up something" for the good of the conference, Delany said.

And in the end, there was "unanimity," he said.

The winners of the two divisions, which do not yet have names, will play in the first Big Ten championship game at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on Dec. 3, 2011.

Delany emphasized that the division alignments are for football only. Basketball, for example, is "such a different sport," he said. "I, personally, don't see a compelling reason (for divisions)."

Even if coaches and athletic directors were to persuade him otherwise, however, "these divisions would be irrelevant to basketball," said Delany.

In any case, regardless of the difficulties in settling on football divisions and putting together schedules, the Big Ten is a "better product" as a

result of Nebraska's inclusion, according to Delany. Welcome Huskers. Oh yes, and be prepared to hit the ground running next football season.



## BIG TEN FOOTBALL DIVISION ALIGNMENTS



IOWA

MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN STATE

MINNESOTA

NEBRASKA

NORTHWESTERN



ILLINOIS

INDIANA

OHIO STATE

PENN STATE

PURDUE

WISCONSIN

## 2011 COMPOSITE BIG TEN SCHEDULE

Date	Illinois	Indiana	Iowa	Michigan	Michigan St.	Minnesota	Nebraska	Northwestern	Ohio State	Penn State	Purdue	Wisconsin
9/3	Arkansas State	@Ball State	Tenn. Tech	Western Mich.	Youngstown St.	@USC		@Boston College	Akron	Indiana State	Kent State	UNLV
9/10	South Dakota St.	Virginia	@Iowa State	Notre Dame	Florida Atlantic	N. Mexico St.	Fresno State	Eastern Ill.	Toledo	Alabama	@Rice	Oregon State
9/17	Arizona State	Delaware St.	Pittsburgh	Eastern Mich.	@Notre Dame	Miami (OH)	Washington	@Army	@Miami	@Temple	SE Missouri St.	N. Illinois
9/24	Western Mich.	@Northwestern	La-Monroe	San Diego St.	Central Mich.	N. Dakota St.	@Wyoming	TBA	Colorado	Eastern Mich.	-	South Dakota
10/1	Northwestern	Penn State	-	Minnesota	@Ohio State	@Michigan	@Wisconsin	@Illinois	Michigan St.	@Indiana	Notre Dame	Nebraska
10/8	@Indiana	Illinois	@Penn State	@Northwestern	-	@Purdue	Ohio State	Michigan	@Nebraska	Iowa	Minnesota	-
10/15	Ohio State	@Wisconsin	Northwestern	@Mich. State	Michigan	-	-	@Iowa	@Illinois	Purdue	@Penn State	Indiana
10/22	@Purdue	@Iowa	Indiana	-	Wisconsin	Nebraska	@Minnesota	Penn State	-	@Northwestern	Illinois	@Mich. State
10/29	@Penn State	Northwestern	@Minnesota	Purdue	@Nebraska	Iowa	Mich. State	@Indiana	Wisconsin	Illinois	@Michigan	@Ohio State
11/5	-	@Ohio State	Michigan	@Iowa	Minnesota	@Mich. State	Northwestern	@Nebraska	Indiana	-	@Wisconsin	Purdue
11/12	Michigan	-	Mich. State	@Illinois	@Iowa	Wisconsin	@Penn State	-	@Purdue	Nebraska	Ohio State	@Minnesota
11/19	Wisconsin	@Mich. State	@Purdue	Nebraska	Indiana	@Northwestern	@Michigan	Minnesota	Penn State	@Ohio State	Iowa	@Illinois
11/26	@Minnesota	Purdue	@Nebraska	Ohio State	@Northwestern	Illinois	Iowa	Mich. State	@Michigan	@Wisconsin	@Indiana	Penn State

## 2012 COMPOSITE BIG TEN SCHEDULE

Date	Illinois	Indiana	Iowa	Michigan	Michigan St.	Minnesota	Nebraska	Northwestern	Ohio State	Penn State	Purdue	Wisconsin
9/1	TBA	Indiana State	N. Illinois	TBA	TBA	@UNLV	Southern Miss	@Syracuse	Miami (OH)	Ohio Univ.	E. Kentucky	TBA
9/8	TBA	TBA	Iowa State	TBA	@Central Mich.	N. Hampshire	@UCLA	Vanderbilt	Cincinnati	@Virginia	@Notre Dame	@Oregon St.
9/15	TBA	Ball State	Northern Iowa	TBA	Notre Dame	Western Mich.	TBA	Boston College	California	Navy	Eastern Mich.	TBA
9/22	TBA	TBA	C. Michigan	TBA	Eastern Mich.	Syracuse	TBA	South Dakota	UAB	Temple	-	TBA
9/29	Penn State	@Northwestern	Minnesota	-	Ohio State	@Iowa	Wisconsin	Indiana	@Mich. State	@Illinois	Marshall	@Nebraska
10/6	@Wisconsin	Michigan St.	-	@Purdue	@Indiana	-	@Ohio State	@Penn State	Nebraska	Northwestern	Michigan	Illinois
10/13	@Michigan	Ohio State	@Mich. State	Illinois	Iowa	Northwestern	-	@Minnesota	@Indiana	-	Wisconsin	@Purdue
10/20	-	-	Penn State	Mich. State	@Michigan	@Wisconsin	@Northwestern	Nebraska	Purdue	@Iowa	@Ohio State	Minnesota
10/27	Indiana	@Illinois	@Northwestern	@Nebraska	@Wisconsin	Purdue	Michigan	Iowa	@Penn State	Ohio State	@Minnesota	Mich. State
11/3	@Ohio State	Iowa	@Indiana	@Minnesota	Nebraska	Michigan	@Mich. State	-	Illinois	@Purdue	Penn State	-
11/10	Minnesota	Wisconsin	Purdue	Northwestern	-	@Illinois	Penn State	@Michigan	-	@Nebraska	@Iowa	@Indiana
11/17	Purdue	@Penn State	@Michigan	Iowa	Northwestern	@Nebraska	Minnesota	@Mich. State	@Wisconsin	Indiana	@Illinois	Ohio State
11/24	@Northwestern	@Purdue	Nebraska	@Ohio State	@Minnesota	Mich. State	@Iowa	Illinois	Michigan	Wisconsin	Indiana	@Penn State



# In search of wideouts

*With three senior wide receivers, Nebraska is working to find top-notch wideouts* | SEAN STEVENS



AARON GREEN

**NEBRASKA WILL** lose three senior receivers this year, and it's expected the Huskers will sign one or two in February.

Hollywood, Fla., wideout **CURT EVANS** (6-0, 173) recently listed Nebraska among his top four along with Boston College, Vanderbilt and South Florida. He will see South Florida unofficially Sept. 4, plans to visit BC in October and has been talking with NU running backs coach **TIM BECK** about a trip to Lincoln for the Texas game Oct. 16.

Another receiver on the Huskers' radar is **MARQUIS JACKSON** (6-0, 205) of Fort Worth, Texas. Jackson talked recently about making a

visit to Nebraska to "see the atmosphere up there and see how it feels to be that far away from home." Jackson may visit Lincoln but is planning certain trips to Minnesota and Arkansas.

With blazing speed (4.38), **MILES SHULER** (5-11, 173) of Long Branch, N.J., could play offense or defense in college. Nebraska recently made his top seven along with Florida, Michigan, Pittsburgh, Rutgers, Notre Dame and Northwestern. He says he will visit Florida and Notre Dame for sure and plans to take all five allotted trips. With Rutgers and Pittsburgh close to home, NU may get one of his three remaining trips.

## GREEN UPDATE

Nebraska's biggest running back target this year has been **AARON GREEN** (5-11, 191) of San Antonio, Texas. Nebraska made his top four, and Texas and Florida State have since received commitments from other backs. The Huskers seem to be in great position with Green.

## EXPECTING A FULL HOUSE

Nebraska already has nine official visitors scheduled for the Texas game Oct. 16, including 4-star prospects in offensive lineman **CYRUS HOBBI** (6-4, 285) of Scottsdale, Ariz., defensive back **JEREMY CASH** (6-2, 185) of Plantation, Fla., and defensive tackle **TODD PEAT, JR.** (6-3, 300) of Tempe, Ariz.

**JESSE HAYES** (6-4, 230) of Cincinnati, Ohio, will also visit during Oct. 16 weekend. Hayes will also visit Oregon and Wisconsin and is considering Florida State and Cincinnati, as well.

Another recent offer is **LAKE KOA-KA'AI** (6-4, 250) of Honolulu, Hawaii, who plans to visit this fall. Koa-Ka'ai will also visit Oregon.

## COMMIT Q&A



### BUBBA STARLING

*At a glance:* Gardner (Kan.) Edgerton Nebraska quarterback commit Bubba Starling is considered one of

the top high school athletes in the country. On top of being one of the nation's top quarterbacks, Starling is also considered a first-round draft pick in baseball. Huskers Illustrated caught up with Starling in this week's commit spotlight.

**CALLAHAN:** What are the challenges of playing two sports at a high level?

**STARLING:** Keeping up with grades, of course, is a big one. Then also playing them both at a high level is tough and trying to work on each of them in the off-season. It's tough, but it's fun.

**CALLAHAN:** Do you think you could do something like a Dennis Dixon did at Oregon and sign pro baseball but still play college football?

**STARLING:** I've thought about that stuff. I had a really good summer with all the baseball stuff I did. Making the USA team was pretty sweet. If the draft worked out, cool. Right now though it would be pretty sweet to see what the college experience is like.

**CALLAHAN:** Who's your favorite baseball player to watch why?

**STARLING:** Joe Mauer, he's pretty much my idol. He was No. 1 in USA Today for both high school football and baseball. That's pretty darn good. I see a lot of similarities between us since we played both sports at a high level.

**CALLAHAN:** Being a baseball player, have you been to the College World Series before?

**STARLING:** Every year since I was little I played in a tournament up there in Omaha. I remember being there in 2006 and watching Oregon State win the title. I was right by the dugout.

**CALLAHAN:** Name me one hidden talent you have?

**STARLING:** I golf with some of my friends in the off-season and I'm decent at it. I can drive it pretty far - about 250 yards. I can also juggle four balls at once, which is pretty sweet.

*by Sean Callahan*



## 2011 Husker Commit List

- ★★ AARYN BOUZOS, DB, 5-11, 185, La Mirada, Calif. (La Mirada)
- ★★★ DANIEL DAVIE, DB, 6-0, 181, Beatrice, Neb.
- ★★★★ RYAN KLACHKO, OL, 6-4, 287, Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart Griffin)
- ★★★★ TEVIN MITCHEL, DB, 6-0, 175, Mansfield, Texas (Legacy)
- ★★★★ TYLER MOORE, OL, 6-6, 290, Clearwater, Fla. (Countryside)
- ★★★★ RYNE REEVES, OL, 6-3, 300, Crete, Neb. (Crete)
- ★★ NIKLAS SADE, K, 6-3, 190, Raleigh, NC (Wakefield)
- ★★★ DAVID SANTOS, LB, 6-0, 193, Klein, Texas (Klein Collins)
- NR DAIMION STAFFORD, DB, 6-1, 210, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Chaffey CC)
- ★★★★ BUBBA STARLING, QB, 6-4, 193, Gardner, Kan. (Gardner Edgerton)
- ★★★★ ZACH STERUP, OL, 6-8, 260, Hastings, Neb. (St. Cecilia)
- ★★★★ JAMAL TURNER, QB, 6-1, 173, Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston)
- ★★★ KEVIN WILLIAMS, DT, 6-2, 275, Holland, Ohio (Springfield)

## 2011 Unofficial Offer List

### James Adeyanju

DE, 6-2, 250  
Chicago, Ill.

### Jonathan Aiken

CB, 5-11, 185  
Hollywood, Fla.

### Antoine Arnold

WR, 6-3, 180  
Temecula, Calif.

### Jeremy Cash

S, 6-1, 185  
Plantation, Fla.

### Curt Evans

WR, 6-0, 173  
Hollywood, Fla.

### Christian French

Athlete, 6-6, 218  
Cedar Rapids, IA

### Givens Mordi Price

OL, 6-4, 278  
Houston, Texas

### Aaron Green

RB, 5-10, 191  
San Antonio, TX

### Quentin Griffin

DE, 6-3, 230  
Rayville, La.

### Jalen Grimbale

DE, 6-4, 255  
Las Vegas, Nev.

### Jesse Hayes

DE, 6-4, 230  
Cincinnati, Ohio

### Christian Heyward

DT, 6-2, 269  
San Diego, Calif.

### Cyrus Hobbi

OL, 6-4, 285  
Scottsdale, Ariz.

### Charles Jackson

CB, 5-11, 180  
Klein, Texas

### Mickey Johnson

DT, 6-1, 310  
Covington, La.

### Lake Koa-Kaia

DE, 6-4, 250  
Honolulu, Hawaii

### Keith Lewis

LB, 6-0, 194  
Lakeland, Fla.

### Wayne Lyons

Safety, 6-0, 190  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

### \*Dexter Moody

LB, 6-2, 210  
Fort Scott (Kan.) CC

### \*Malcolm Moulton

WR, 5-11, 185  
Fort Scott (Kan.) CC

### Patrick Onwuasor

WR, 6-2, 190  
Inglewood, Calif.

### Todd Peat, Jr.

DT, 6-3, 300  
Tempe, Ariz.

### Givens Mordi Price

OL, 6-4, 278  
Houston, Texas

### Miles Shuler

WR, 5-11, 173  
Long Branch, NJ

### Joel Willis

Athlete, 5-10, 180  
Garden Grove, CA

### DeVante Wilson

DE, 6-4, 230  
Corona, Calif.

\* Junior College prospect

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  - Sept. 24 (South Dakota State preview/Homecoming parade & pep rally)
  - Oct. 15 (Texas preview)
  - Oct. 29 (Missouri preview)
  - Nov. 12 (Kansas preview)
- LOCATION:** Wick Alumni Center Holling Garden, 1520 R St., Lincoln, Neb.  
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- TIME:** 4:30 – 7 p.m., program begins at 5:30
- ADMISSION:** FREE

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## DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN  
RECRUITING PUBLISHER,  
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

# Foundation in place for top recruiting class

### TIME FOR A LITTLE PATIENCE.

Last year, Ndamukong Suh made his case for being one of the best defensive tackles of all-time. Suh racked up more trophies than most schools do in one great year.

So it's not a surprise that fans believed in the very next recruiting class defensive tackles would be lining up to be the next Suh.

Pump the brakes a bit.

The Huskers have put together the foundation of possibly their best recruiting class in the modern era. The offensive line class includes four 4-star prospects. The Huskers have a commitment from the top cornerback in Texas – Tevin Mitchel. Oh, and let's not forget the two quarterbacks who have given their pledge; both are listed among the top 250 prospects in the country.

I think some expected four DT's to be committed already with 4 or 5 stars next to their names.

To date, there is one 3-star defensive tackle committed to NU in the 2011 class.

I could spend a column talking about how I think Kevin Williams is grossly underrated, but I'll save that for a long spiel about my minor problems with recruiting rankings.

Back to my point: Is this a cause for

alarm? Hardly.

It's going to take some consistency to build up a reputation in that regard. Oh yeah, and some patience.

Even with the close loss in the Big 12 Championship game (that some Husker fans would debate was not really a loss), the Huskers are still trying to get to a BCS bowl under coach Bo Pelini. Consistency in the win column helps just as much as sending a talented player like Suh to the top of the NFL Draft.

The other thing to consider before impatience runs rampant: This is not a year where there is a large need numbers-wise at defensive tackle. Assuming no one goes in the NFL Draft early, Nebraska will not lose one scholarship senior at the position (Jared Crick and Terrence Moore are juniors).

Yes, it is time for more patience. If you're going to go after the best defensive tackles, you're going to have to wait until sometimes very close to Signing Day. Top prospects will take more official visits because they have more options.

Even having said all this, people seem to ignore an obvious point. Nebraska is very much in on some top defensive tackles.

Who are they?

Rivals250 defensive tackle Mickey Johnson from Covington (La.) St. Paul's has the Huskers in his top five. He'll be on campus to check out Lincoln when the Huskers play Missouri on Oct. 30. Once again, don't doubt John Papuchis landing a big-time defensive line recruit that many expect to be an uphill battle. Jason Ankrah comes to mind for a past example.

We're not done.

Fellow Rivals250 interior defensive lineman Todd Peat, Jr. will also officially visit Nebraska. The Tempe (Ariz.) Corona Del Sol prospect will be in Memorial Stadium for the big game in Lincoln against the Longhorns. Yes, Nebraska has a good shot at this top defensive tackle.

Another 4-star defensive tackle to keep your eye on is San Diego Point Loma's Christian Heyward. His mother said plainly that Heyward wants to see Nebraska. Let's not forget he made his way to Holiday Bowl practices last year and wanted his picture taken with Suh.

I don't even have enough space to talk about all the top defensive ends Nebraska is on or who could pop up.

So have some patience. If Nebraska continues its climb as a program both in the win column and producing top defensive prospects, the flood gates will open wider and wider to top talent. **N**



# Making a new name for herself

*Lauren Cook returns home after earning national freshman of the year honors at UCLA* | BOB HAMAR



## LAUREN COOK HAD HER REASONS FOR GOING TO UCLA OUT OF LINCOLN (NEB.) PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL.

One of those reasons was to get out of the considerable shadow of her father, John, who has won over 300 matches and two national championships as head volleyball coach at Nebraska.

"I was worried that I was looked at as John Cook's daughter," she said. "I did

want to go make a name for myself and tell people I'm Lauren Cook. I'm not John Cook's daughter. When I was at UCLA I realized I kind of have my own path and I'm not attached to his name anymore."

After one season at UCLA, Lauren returned to

Lincoln to join the Huskers in January. It wasn't an easy decision. Lauren was the national freshman of the year at UCLA, but she couldn't get the academic program she wanted, involving event planning.

The whole situation caused some stress in the Cook household this winter.

"It was a very stressful couple of weeks in our office for the coaching staff and at my house," John Cook said. "Of course, as a dad I was more worried about the well-being of my daughter and what was the right thing to do and having her go through the right steps. We were very concerned and had a lot of discussions about how this was going to work out."

So far, it's worked out well. Lauren's return to Lincoln has allowed the Huskers to go to the 6-2 offense with her sharing time at setter with senior All-American Sydney Anderson.

Taking time away from a player of Anderson's stature certainly could cause some problems, but Lauren has fit into the program well.

"Once Lauren showed up here, there was a connection when she was out on the court that I



## COOK'S HANGOVER

John Cook didn't feel very well on the Monday morning after the Huskers lost to Florida in five sets at the Qwest Center in Omaha. The Huskers led 11-7 in the fifth set, but some crucial errors helped the Gators come out on top.

"I asked all the players at practice if they ever had a hangover and they all said no," Cook said. "So I said, 'Then you have no idea how I felt after that Florida match.'"

Nebraska's dominating performance in its opener, a 3-0 sweep of Kentucky, may have contributed to the Florida loss.

"Against Kentucky we may have gotten a false impression of how good we are," Coach Cook said. "We started thinking we were really good because we dominated Kentucky. Florida came out with nothing to lose and played really great, but we found a way to get back and get in a position to win."

## GOOD CHEMISTRY

Coach Cook is certainly happy with the chemistry on the team. The trip to China early this summer helped that chemistry develop. It was a chemistry that last year's team maybe never found. "This team knows what it has to do and where it wants to go," he said. "Last year we had so many question marks at this time. This year it's a completely different feel."



## 2010 Schedule

### RUNZA/AVCA SHOWCASE

SAT, AUG 28	KENTUCKY	QWEST CENTER OMAHA	W, 3-0
SUN, AUG 29	FLORIDA	QWEST CENTER OMAHA	L, 2-3
TUE, AUG 31	CREIGHTON	OMAHA, NEB.	W, 3-0

### BYU TOURNAMENT

FRI, SEP 03	BYU	PROVO, UTAH	8 P.M.
SAT, SEP 04	CAL POLY	PROVO, UTAH	1 P.M.
SAT, SEP 04	IDAHO STATE	PROVO, UTAH	6 P.M.

### AMERITAS PLAYERS CHALLENGE

THU, SEP 09	DAYTON	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
FRI, SEP 10	W. MICHIGAN	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, SEP 11	ILLINOIS	DEVANEY SPORTS CENTER	7 P.M.

### BIG 12 CONFERENCE PLAY

WED, SEP 15	IOWA STATE *	AMES, IOWA	7 P.M.
SAT, SEP 18	COLORADO *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
WED, SEP 22	KANSAS *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, SEP 25	BAYLOR *	WACO, TEXAS	7 P.M.
WED, SEP 29	OKLAHOMA *	NORMAN, OKLA.	7 P.M.
SAT, OCT 02	TEXAS *	NU COLISEUM	3:30 P.M.
WED, OCT 06	MISSOURI *	COLUMBIA, MO.	7 P.M.
SAT, OCT 09	TEXAS A&M *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, OCT 16	KANSAS STATE *	MANHATTAN, KAN.	7 P.M.
WED, OCT 20	TEXAS TECH *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, OCT 23	MISSOURI *	NU COLISEUM	TBA
WED, OCT 27	TEXAS *	AUSTIN, TEXAS	8 P.M.
SAT, OCT 30	IOWA STATE *	NU COLISEUM	TBA
WED, NOV 03	KANSAS *	LAWRENCE, KAN.	6:30 P.M.
SAT, NOV 06	TEXAS TECH *	LUBBOCK, TEXAS	6:30 P.M.
WED, NOV 10	KANSAS STATE *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, NOV 13	COLORADO *	BOULDER, COLO.	TBA
WED, NOV 17	OKLAHOMA *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
WED, NOV 24	BAYLOR *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, NOV 27	TEXAS A&M *	COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS	TBA

### NCAA TOURNAMENT

FRI, DEC 03-04	NCAA FIRST AND SECOND ROUNDS	TBA
FRI, DEC 10-11	NCAA REGIONALS	TBA
THU, DEC 16	NCAA SEMIFINALS	KANSAS CITY, MO.
SAT, DEC 18	NATIONAL TITLE	KANSAS CITY, MO.

\* BIG 12 CONFERENCE GAME



couldn't give," Anderson said. "She is going to be the type of player who brings so much to this team. I'm excited and I know this team is excited for this new system we're running. I wouldn't have it any other way."

The transfer to Nebraska also gave Lauren the opportunity to join the Huskers on their trip to China early this summer. In fact, the entire 2010 roster made that trip, including Lauren and freshman rightside hitter Morgan Broekhuis.

"Whether she is my daughter or not, Lauren has a personality," John Cook said. "If you've watched her over her career, she has a way of fitting in with kids and making them feel great, and that's why she's a setter."

"I think the China trip was such a huge opportunity for Lauren and Morgan to really get exposed to what this is all about and build those relationships that we know are so important in women's volleyball."

Neither Lauren nor Anderson had ever played in a 6-2 offense. In the system Nebraska used the first weekend of the season, Anderson served in the first rotation of the match. When it's time for her to rotate into the front row, Lauren subs in to keep a setter in the back for all six rotations.

"It helps that we went to China and ran it in China," Lauren said. "The transition has gone well. I've adjusted to it and I hope she has."

Everything flows really nicely when we're on the court."

The 6-2 also allows the Huskers to build their offense around two 6-foot-5 left-handed rightside players in senior Lindsay Licht and Broekhuis.

"I've never seen two 6-5 lefties on any team," Lauren Cook said. "It always sets up a huge block because then you have our middles like Brooke (Delano) and Ali (McNeal) who get up and touch 10-5, 10-6. They're blocking with those 6-5 players, Lindsey and Morgan, so it's a huge block."

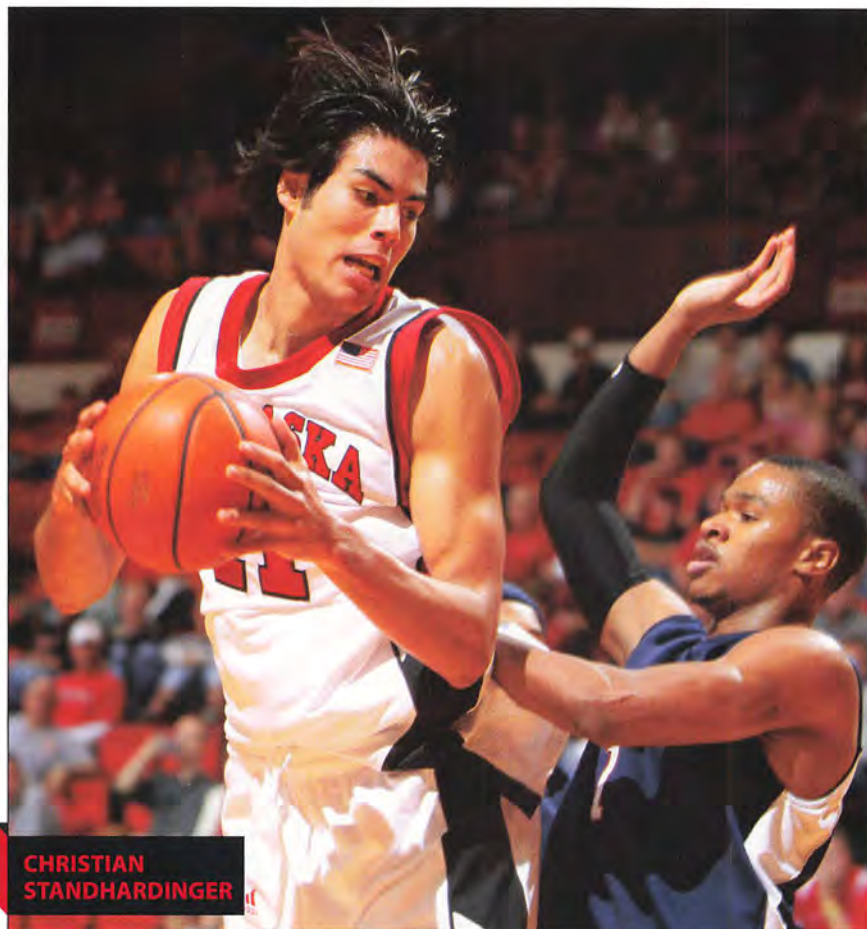
**2** Number of 6-foot-5 lefties on roster



# Around THE Horn

I BRIAN ROSENTHAL

THIS ISSUE MEN'S BASKETBALL WOMEN'S BASKETBALL BASEBALL



CHRISTIAN  
STANDHARDINGER

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

## LEADING OFF

Some players approached coach Doc Sadler before the Nebraska basketball team's summer exhibition tour and said team chemistry could use a little work.

To that end, the Huskers' trip to the Bahamas was a success, Sadler said.

"The biggest benefit is

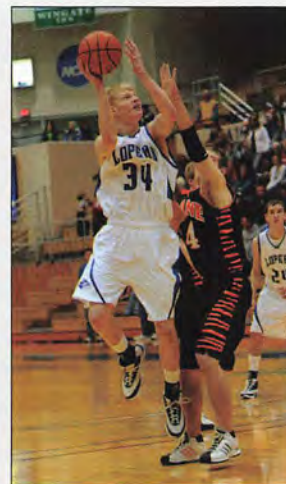
being down there where kids have to communicate with each other without text messaging and all those things. They just become a team," Sadler said.

"(It was) a much more laid-back setting, where guys could have a good time, get to know each other better."

And, oh yeah: The

Huskers won, too. That always helps, especially for a young team in need of a confidence boost.

Nebraska won all four of its games in the Bahamas. The competition shouldn't be confused with that on a Big 12 Conference schedule, but still, the Huskers benefited from extra practice time and gained some early



## BERANEK ON SCHOLARSHIP

Drake Beranek took a risk when he left Nebraska-Kearney before the start of his senior season. Now, he's being rewarded. Sadler is putting Beranek on scholarship in his only season playing with the Huskers.

"It was a nice surprise, and I am thankful to be given this opportunity," said Beranek, a senior guard from Ravenna, Neb. "Coach has given me plenty of opportunities in practice, and I tried to take advantage and play to my maximum potential."

Beranek played three years at Nebraska-Kearney, an NCAA Division II school, where he ranked 15th on the school's all-time scoring list after three seasons. He transferred to Nebraska and sat out last season as a walk-on.



momentum.

Sadler said his players are more mature. Still, it's a young group. Four of the top five scorers on the trip are sophomores, and the other is a junior college transfer, Caleb Walker.

The 6-foot-4 Walker averaged 11.5 points, 4.5 rebounds and 17 minutes while shooting 18-of-27.

"The thing that impressed me as much as anything was how quick he picked things up," Sadler said, also noting that Walker can be one of the team's best athletes.

Christian Standhardinger and Brandon Ubel were the top two scorers on the trip.

Sadler said he also saw more leadership from senior point guard Lance Jeter, a transfer last season.

"He, I think, wants this to be a team that fits his personality," Sadler said. "Lance has always won wherever he's been. I think he's going to take ownership of this team. The good news is I think the guys will follow him."

year of eligibility remaining. Sadler said Spencer was not promised a scholarship for the 2011-12 season.

The 6-2 Spencer, a native of Baton Rouge, La., left LSU because of academic reasons. He started 28-of-31 games last season and averaged 14.5 points, 2.7 assists, 3 turnovers and 2.5 rebounds.

Spencer started 32 games as a sophomore and averaged 11.3 points. LSU was 11-20 last season and 25-10 in 2008-09.

#### NU HONORING IVY

Nebraska will retire Maurtice Ivy's No. 30 jersey during the women basketball program's Alumni Weekend, Sept. 25-26 in Lincoln.

Ivy, the 1998 Big Eight Conference Player of the Year, is the No. 2 all-time leading scorer in Nebraska

history with 2,131 points. She led the Huskers to the 1988 Big Eight championship and to the program's first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance.

She will join Karen Jennings (No. 51) as the only Nebraska women's basketball players to have their jersey retired.



A graduate of Omaha Central High School, Ivy ranks in the top eight in Nebraska history in points, points per game (second, 19.1), field goals made (second, 847), field goals attempted (first, 1,799), free throws made (third, 431), free throws attempted (T, fourth, 570), double-doubles (T, fifth, 21), blocked shots (fifth, 104), rebounds (sixth, 778), steals (eighth, 215) and games started (eighth, 107).

#### WELCOME BACK, DARIN

Darin Erstad said he couldn't pass up what he called an opportunity of a lifetime.

So when Nebraska baseball coach Mike Anderson asked Erstad, one of the program's most-decorated players, to return to the Huskers in a volunteer coaching role, Erstad said yes.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be part of the university in a coaching role," Erstad said. "It is a great opportunity to help some young kids develop for the

rest of their lives."

Because he's a volunteer, Erstad isn't allowed to help with off-campus recruiting. But rest assured, recruits will take notice of his Major League resume.

Erstad, the No. 1 pick of the 1995 MLB Draft, is a two-time Major League All-Star, a three-time Gold Glove winner, and helped Anaheim win the 2002 World Series. He finished his 14-year career in the fall of 2009.

Erstad will serve as the Huskers' hitting coach.

"My philosophy is to lay it on the line every day, every time you are on the field," Erstad said. "There is a couple of ways to play the game, but there is only one right way to play the game of baseball, and that is to and respect your opponent. It is game-on from the time you step on that field, and that is the way it should be in life and on the field."

Darin and his wife, Jessica, and three children — Jordan, Zack and Adam — have lived in Lincoln the last two years.

# 30

**Maurtice Ivy's No. 30 jersey will be retired.**

#### SPENCER JOINS NU

The starting point guard at LSU the past two seasons is now a member of the Nebraska men's basketball team — as a walk-on.

Bo Spencer is among five walk-ons to join the 2010-11 team. As a transfer, he must sit this coming season and will have one





## FROM THE ARCHIVES | MR. SMITH GOES TO THE QUARTERBACK

— Nebraska saw something in Neil Smith that no other major college program did — potential. The other schools that offered him a scholarship out of McDonogh 35 High School in New Orleans were Grambling, Southern (La.) and Florida A&M. Clearly, he was off the recruiting radar. In fact, the Cornhusker

coaches were watching film of an opposing quarterback when they noticed him. He stood 6-foot-6 and weighed just over 200 pounds, maybe, when he arrived at Nebraska. Smith didn't become a full-time starter until his senior season, when he was a consensus All-Big Eight selection and earned All-America recognition from The Sporting News. He was the second pick in the 1988 NFL draft and played 13 professional seasons.





NEBRASKA FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS,  
ANALYSIS & RECRUITING

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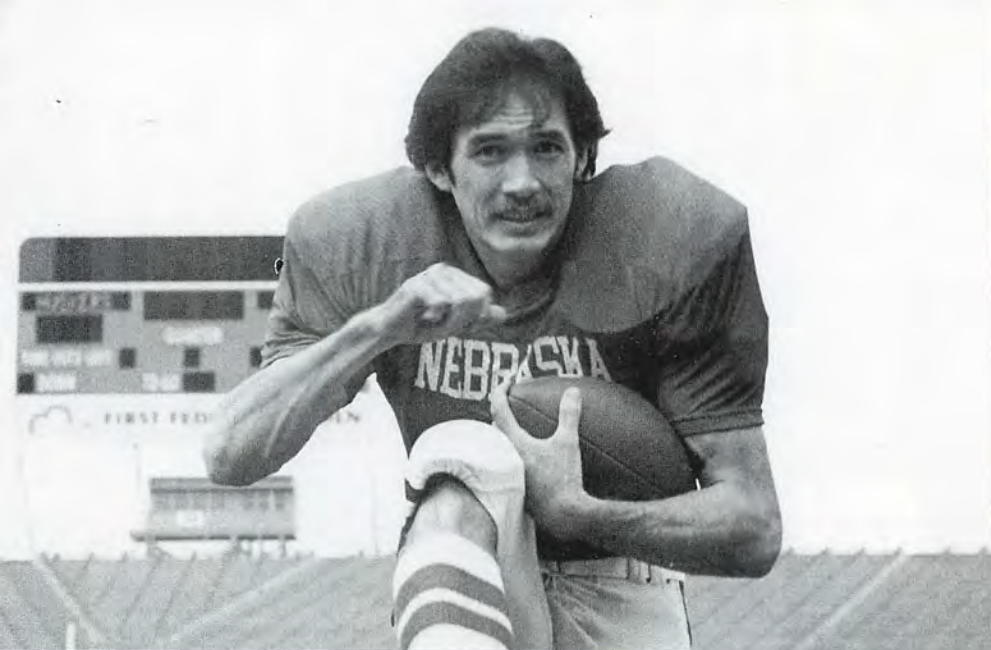
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## NEBRASKA 31, ALABAMA 24

Sept. 17, 1977 • at Memorial Stadium

Alabama	7	10	0	7	—	24
Nebraska	10	7	7	7	—	31

(N) Billy Todd 29 field goal  
 (A) Jeff Rutledge 7 run (Roger Chapman kick)  
 (N) Rick Berns 7 pass Randy Garcia (Todd kick)  
 (A) Tony Nathan 1 run (Chapman kick)  
 (N) Berns 2 run (Todd kick)  
 (A) Chapman 37 field goal  
 (N) Curtis Craig 17 run (Todd kick)  
 (A) Nathan 1 run (Chapman kick)  
 (N) Berns 1 run (Todd kick)

Attendance: 80,171



## GAMESREMEMBERED

# Berning 'Bama

*Rick Berns burned Alabama for three touchdowns as Nebraska upset the No. 4-ranked Crimson Tide*

**WITH MORE** than 7 minutes remaining, a field goal might not have held up against No. 4-ranked Alabama. So Tom Osborne went for the touchdown.

And Rick Berns responded.

For the third time that afternoon, the junior I-back from Wichita Falls, Texas, got the ball into the end zone. As it turned out, that was all Nebraska needed for the upset.

Berns was the ABC Offensive Player of the Game, with 128 yards rushing, three receptions for 22 yards and a 36-yard pass completion as well as

the three touchdowns.

In addition, the Blackshirts intercepted five Jeff Rutledge passes, including two by junior monster back Jim Pillen.

The victory, the first by an Osborne-coached team against a top-five-ranked opponent, came a week after the Cornhuskers had been shocked at home in their season-opener against Washington State. Fans booed quarterback Randy Garcia that day. Not so this time.

The senior from Los Angeles came off the bench to replace an injured Tom Sorley and directed the fired-up Huskers, who finished

with 417 yards of offense.

That Osborne was all-in was apparent from the get-go. Nebraska's first touchdown drive included a 36-yard I-back pass by Berns; a play on which Sorley pitched to wide receiver Tim Smith, who lateraled back to Berns, who lateraled to wide receiver Tim Smith, who lateraled back to Sorley, who threw an 11-yard pass to tight end Ken Spaeth; and a fake field goal on fourth-and-3 at the Alabama 7-yard line.

**BEAR BRYANT:** "This should be the beginning of a real fine rivalry."

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

► A couple of weeks before the game, a Board of Regents advisory committee approved an 8,000-seat expansion on Memorial Stadium's east side. The expansion project was tabled, however. Regent Kermit Wagner proposed building a 100,000-seat stadium.

► A fan snatched Bear Bryant's signature houndstooth fedora as he returned to the field at halftime. Another fan grabbed it and returned it.

► Because of a dispute over Alabama's ticket allotment, enough were returned that they could be had for \$5, half face value, outside the stadium beforehand.



# CROSSWORD &TRIVIA

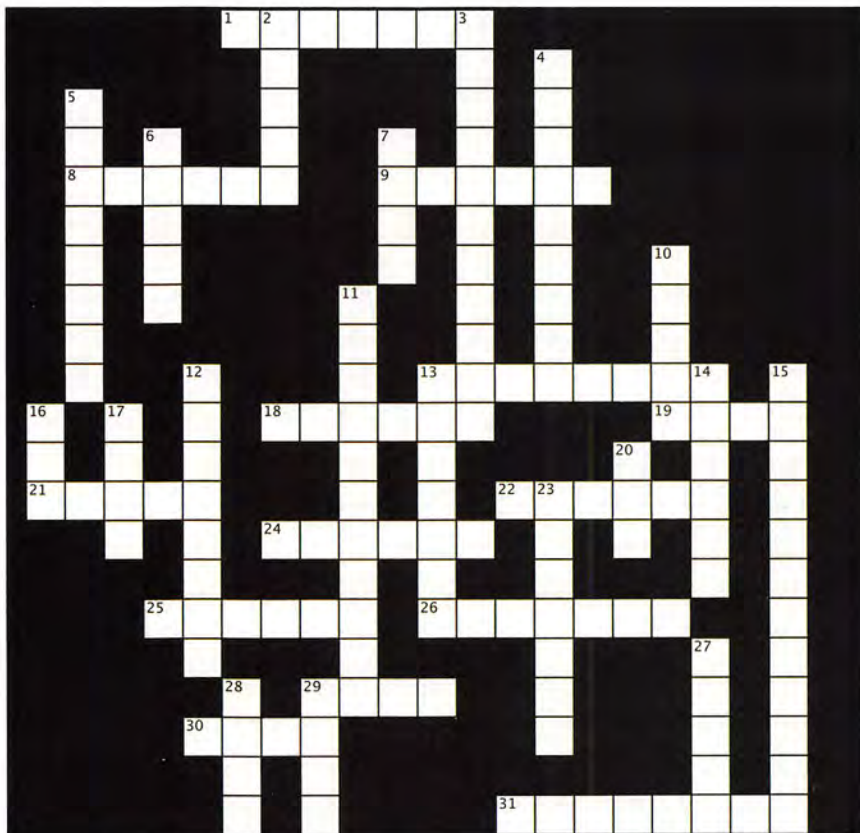
## ACROSS

1. Idaho nickname
8. 2003 All-America punter
9. Turner Gill's current team
13. Wears No. 34
18. Linebacker out for season with injury
19. Wears No. 10
21. Wears No. 94
22. Wears No. 48
24. Idaho campus location
25. 2000 Dave Rimington Award winner
26. 1993 Dick Butkus Award winner
29. Running backs coach
30. Husker on Paul Hornung Award watch list
31. Wears No. 27

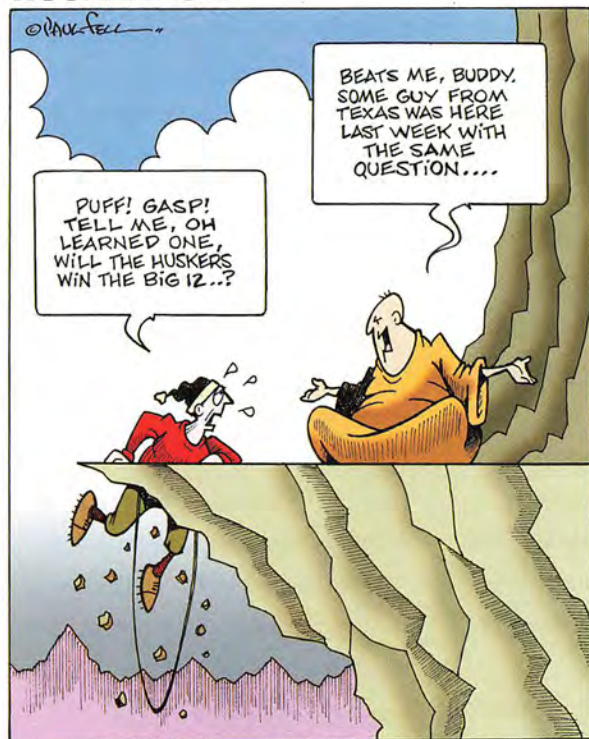
## DOWN

2. Wears No. 95
3. Wears No. 55
4. Nov. 6 opponent
5. 2003 All-America safety
6. Tight ends coach
7. Idaho head coach
10. Offensive lineman out for season with injury
11. Opponent in Big 12 opener
12. Wears No. 22
13. I-back who moved to defense in the spring
14. Husker on Lou Groza Award watch list
15. Idaho's 2009 bowl
16. Network for NU-Washington telecast
17. Frank Solich's current team
20. Idaho's conference
23. Idaho quarterback and Nebraska native
27. Oct. 16 opponent
28. Holds single-season total offense record
29. Defensive back out for season with injury

Answers will appear in the Sept. 18 issue



## HUSKERNUTZ



EVERY NEW HUSKER SEASON IS FILLED WITH UNCERTAINTY.

## BRAIN BUSTER

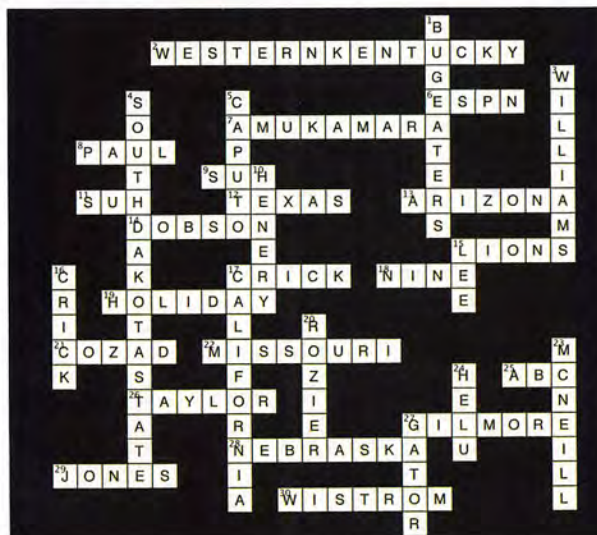


One of these Cornhuskers has the top two single-game tackle totals in school history: Jerry Murtaugh, Barrett Ruud, Clete Pilen, Rich Glover, Bruce Dunning, Mike Brown. Can you name him?

Answer will appear in our next issue

AUGUST ANSWER: Tommie Frazier

## AUGUST SOLUTION







## THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

# Capturing lightning in a bottle

**HERE'S A PROBLEM** sports writers, whose subject following Nebraska's 49-10 opening-game victory against Western Kentucky was Taylor Martinez, might have faced: How does one go about writing something appropriate to the redshirted freshman quarterback's debut?

For instance, what can be written to convey the excitement in Memorial Stadium when, on his third snap, he ran 46 yards for a touchdown? How about asking Jeremiah Sirles for some help?

"As soon as I saw him break second level, I was like, 'One man to beat,'" said Sirles. "I got money on Taylor, any time. He's just so fast and so agile, so very athletic that it's fun to watch him."

Sirles also is a redshirted freshman starting for the first time as a Cornhusker. He opened at offensive left tackle and took some snaps at right tackle as well.

That Sirles started is impressive. That he played both sides is remarkable. The subject here is Martinez, though, and how to capture his performance in print.

"You don't give him a little opening," offensive coordinator Shawn Watson said. "You get a little opening, it's over. I don't know how fast he is; no one around here does."

They just know he's "football fast," said Watson. "An inch, he'll kill you."

Martinez certainly killed Western Kentucky, scoring two other

touchdowns on runs of 19 and 15 yards. He was three-for-seven, three touchdowns on seven carries, an average that fuels the imagination, as if in his case the imagination needs further fueling.

Anyway, sometimes the subject can bail out a writer in a situation such as this. But Martinez offered little in the way of quotes. He was no Brandon Kinnie or Niles Paul.

As a result of fan enthusiasm about his starting, "I got chills throughout my body, which is pretty cool," Martinez said. "I was glad that the fans wanted me to start."

Pretty cool, you say?

Apparently, Martinez doesn't say much, a character trait that must please Bo Pelini.

"You will learn that very quickly. 'Yes, no, yes, sure,'" Sirles said. "I force him to talk to me. I force him to sit with me at lunch and talk to me. But that's the way he is. That's the way he's going to be.

"And he's my quarterback."

He's also Watson's quarterback, and Pelini's quarterback, and the fans' quarterback, with sophomore Cody Green No. 2 and senior Zac Lee, last season's starter, No. 3.

The future is now at quarterback – for now, anyway.

"It was all right," Martinez said of his

performance. "I can play a lot better."

Watson seemed satisfied, if not pleased, with what he saw.

"I thought his overall play, his poise, is a tribute to his character and the person he is," said Watson. "I mean, he's a cool guy. He's very poised. He doesn't get rattled at all."

Watson's comments were punctuated with "cool," as in, "he's a cool guy. 'He's just a real cool customer. He doesn't sway at all in pressure situations, just another day, just going to work.'"

Martinez was told on Monday he'd be the starter, though at Tuesday's weekly news conference, Pelini said the starter hadn't been told. Keep 'em guessing.

Martinez didn't say, if for no other reason than he couldn't be interviewed. Pelini's policy is, players are off-limits for interviews until they see game action.

And the Spring Game doesn't count.

Whether or not that sanction was the reason, "I really wasn't under very much pressure at all since I didn't have to talk to the media, like I am right now," said Martinez.

Saturday night the pressure was on reporters to capture the energy and excitement surrounding his debut. And the guess here is, they mostly came up short.

Catching lightning in a bottle is all but impossible. **N**





# YOU'RE IN.

PRACTICE REPORTS

SEAN CALLAHAN ANALYSIS

HOME GAME HIGHLIGHTS

POST GAME PRESS CONFERENCES

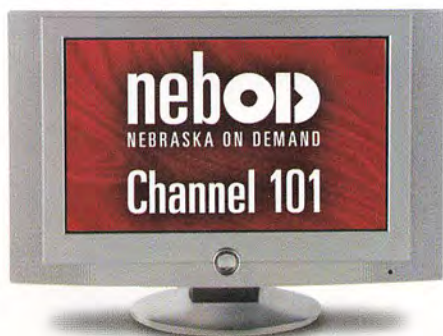
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